Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should NMC revisit its policy of allowing the termination of NMC employees without cause?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BoG Calendar

A twelfth-grader from the Marianas High School has been named the winner in the Bank of Guam's Seventh Annual Calendar Photo Contest.

LOCAL...Page 15

Black Magic

A 2-year-old boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body, apparently stuck there one by one.

WORLD...Page 24

Fitial

Fitial FREEZES conversions, hiring

Transfer of 80 Tinian employees also stopped

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has ordered a temporary stop to the processing and approval of Executive Branch employee "transfers, reallocations, promotions, conversions or new hire," a move that also puts a brake on the contentious lateral transfers of over 80 employees of the Tinian Municipality to other agencies on the island.

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62 pct. of students get H1N1 vaccines

Doses now open to the public on first come-first served basis

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Villagomez

More than 5,000 students in both private and public schools on three islands have already received the H1N1 flu vaccines, translating to 62 percent of the entire student

See STUDENTS on Page 4

Senate supports $6M ship disposal program

Citizens demand environmental care

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

On a 5-1 vote with two abstentions, the Senate adopted yesterday afternoon a resolution conveying support to a $6 million ship disposal investment, but concerned citizens demand lawmakers to help ensure that Worldwide Salvage

See SENATE on Page 4

Senate legal counsel Tony Cabrera, left, gestures as he stresses a point while senators listen during a session break yesterday morning. Photo shows, from left, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan), Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Paterno Hocog (R-Rota), and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tinian mayor-elect, others sue outgoing mayor over $1M loan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tinian mayor-elect Ramon M. Dela Cruz and other Tinian winners in the Nov. 7 general election are suing to stop the $1 million loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust that they allege is unconstitutional.

Dela Cruz, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, senator-elect Francisco Q. Cruz, and representative-elect Trenton B. Connor sued outgoing Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, outgoing Tinian senators Joseph M. Mendiola and Henry San Nicolas,

See TINIAN on Page 4

Supporting docs delay housing perks. **PAGE 2**
China flight crews to get expedited visas. **PAGE 5**

Local

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Supporting docs delay housing perks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez disclosed yesterday that supporting documents delayed the issuance of checks to hospital employees who are waiting for their housing allowances.

The checks, which reinstate the housing perks of off-island hires, were scheduled for release on Dec. 11.

However, Villagomez said, the Finance Department had advised the hospital of the last minute delay as a result of incomplete documents.

"We're expecting the checks to be out on Dec. 11…but we just got word from the Finance Department that they need more supporting documents to ensure that everybody on the list are qualified to receive it," he told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

Villagomez could not say when the checks will be released to employees but he stressed that the decision to reinstate the benefit still stands.

He said DPH immediately turned in the needed documents.

Of the over 400 CHC personnel, more than 200 were hired from off-island. Most were lured to the island with the promise of free housing.

DPH employees with dependents who are hired from off-island get a monthly $800 housing allowance; single employees get $500.

Villagomez said an additional 20 off-island hires are expected early next year.

A large number of CHC employees whose contracts were renewed in June lost the free housing benefit after the government suspended paying for housing allowances due to declining revenues. However, due to the large number of employees who left the hospital, the government reconsidered and reinstated the benefit.

Instead of classifying it as a "housing allowance" on the payroll, the amount as added to the existing salaries of personnel.

Unlike other agencies, health care doesn't have an immediately available workforce and the chronic shortage of personnel at DPH is due to the "unattractive salary offer" to qualified applicants.

For the over 200 off-island recruits, the housing benefit is only the "enticement" the hospital could offer to qualified people to stay.

Villagomez emphasized that the benefit is retroactive and will be sourced out from the Fiscal Year 2010 budget of the hospital.

"Public Health is the largest department that hires from off-island. An estimated 70 percent of our nurses are nonresidents and all our physicians were hired from the States, except for only a few doctors," he added.

End of Year Special
December 21 - 25, 28-30 (8 days)

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DPS reorganizes special anti-theft group

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is reorganizing its special coalition to curb the surge in burglary, robbery, and theft incidents in the Commonwealth, according to Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela yesterday.

Tudela tapped Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero as the coordinator for the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition, a special group formed by DPS in 2002 that focused on solving burglary, theft, and robbery cases.

The commissioner named Detective Jeffrey F. Olopai as TASC team leader.

Deleon Guerrero and Olopai were responsible for recommending the creation of TASC on July 28, 2002. They were also instrumental in the TASC design and implementation concepts.

"I am extremely confident in their abilities to implement this project successfully," said Tudela.

TASC is credited for 107 arrests between July 28 and Dec. 31, 2002. Of those arrests, 104 resulted in convictions.

"It is our every intent to replicate those efforts and we are developing the required mechanisms to do so," Tudela said.

He said strengthening TASC's capabilities through the allocation of sufficient personnel is of utmost priority. By this Sunday, additional personnel will be assigned to TASC.

Tudela said the heads of the Criminal Investigation Division, Bureau of Criminal Intelligence, and the Patrol Section are sifting through personnel prospects to better equip the coalition with reliable staff.

Tudela said he understands the community's concerns over the latest surge in burglary, robbery, and theft incidents. "These barbaric and intolerable acts should and must be controlled," he stressed.

Tudela vowed to do what is necessary to achieve that goal. "However, to this end, I am appealing to the general public for patience," the commissioner added.

In a news briefing yesterday, DPS spokesperson Eric F. David said there were 1,924 cases of burglary, robbery, and theft on Saipan in 2008.

This year, there have been 2,010 cases of burglary, robbery, and theft on the island, he added.

Of these three types of crimes, thefts were ahead, with 1,313 cases in 2008 and 1,306 in 2009. There were 580 and 681 burglary cases in 2008 and 2009 respectively. There were 31 and 23 robbery incidents in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

In both years, David said, Garapan had the highest number of cases, with 433 in 2008 and 348 in 2009.

Deleon Guerrero said the manpower shortage at DPS created an impediment to TASC operations.

The number of patrol officers and Criminal Investigation Bureau personnel who used to handle burglary, theft, and robbery cases went down due to the deployment of officers to Iraq and other factors.

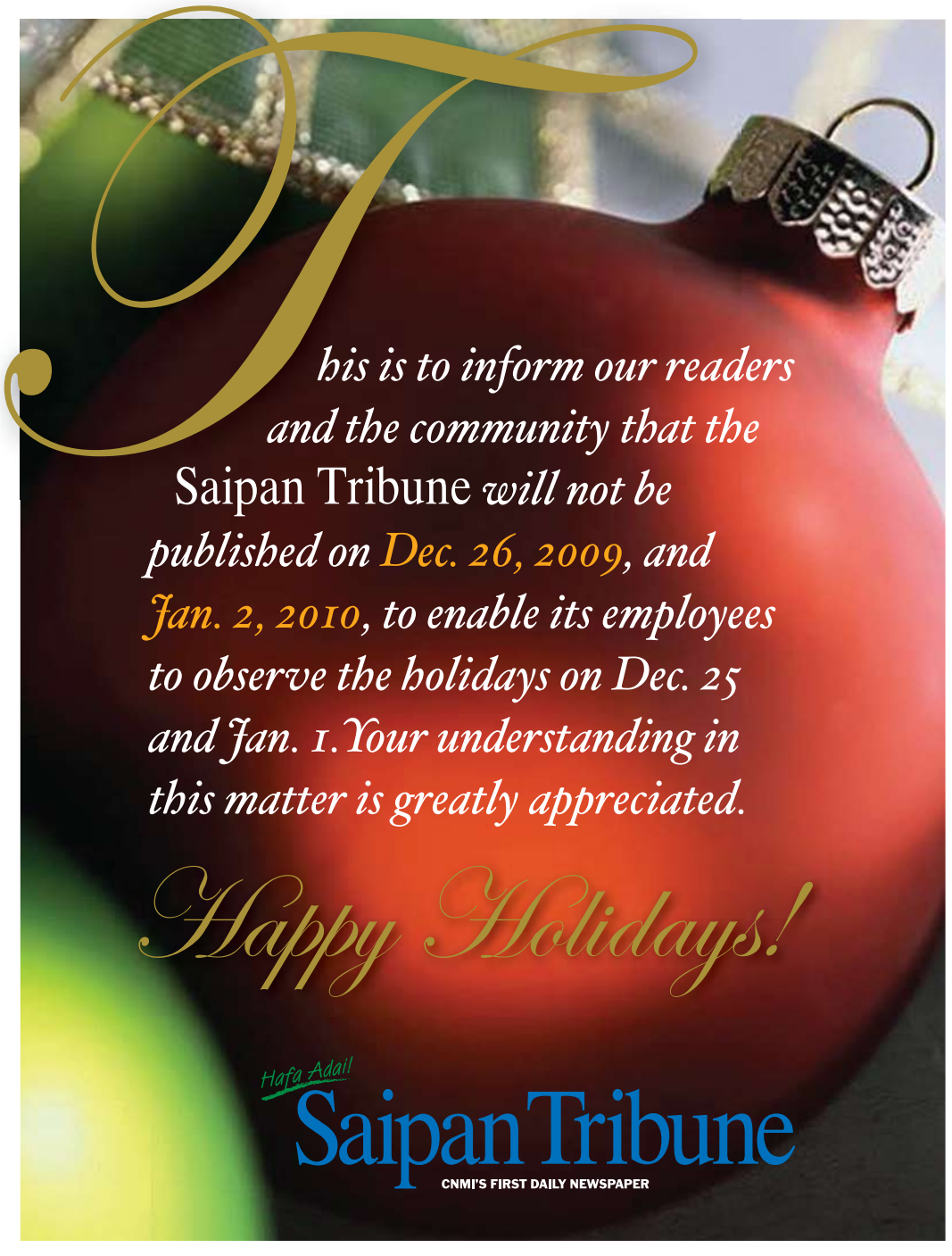
"The good that's happening here is that lots of the officers, not all of them, are back at the department. The deployment is over and the officers that were involved in the TASC project are slowly coming back to the department," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said there will be enough number of personnel that will be assigned back to the project so they can move along with its implementation.

CIB chief Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar said the coalition currently has 11 members and more will possibly join in.

Rangamar said the members are composed of officers from the Juvenile Unit, Homicide Section, Fire and Arson investigators, Criminal Intelligence, and Drug Task Force.

Rangamar said number of burglary and theft cases have recently soared. In fact, he believes the actual number is higher because some cases have not been reported to DPS.


This is to inform our readers
and the community that the
Saipan Tribune will not be
published on Dec. 26, 2009, and
Jan. 2, 2010, to enable its employees
to observe the holidays on Dec. 25
and Jan. 1. Your understanding in
this matter is greatly appreciated.
Happy Holidays!
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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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20 new cops to join DPS next year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Twenty new police officers are expected to join the Department of Public Safety next year.

DPS spokesperson Eric F. David said yesterday that, according to DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela, the 20th Police Academy Cycle will begin in January 2010.

David said there will be 16 cadets for Saipan and two each for Tinian and Rota.

At present, David said, there are 106 police officers on Saipan. He is not sure how many officers are currently on Tinian and Rota.

Lt. Kevin Aldan of the Fire Division will be handling the training of cadets. The course will be completed in six months.

Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero said there were over 100 applicants who were thoroughly screened.

Applicants who are certified by the Office of Personnel Management are required to undergo intensive special background checks, English placement test, agility test, interview process, and a drug test.

Tudela said all applicants must meet the DPS pre-admission requirement in order to become a police cadet.

Senate confirms Maratita to MVA; Deleon Guerrero named to MPLT

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Senate unanimously confirmed yesterday the re-appointment of Edward U. Maratita to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

In a session yesterday, senators approved the recommendation of the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee to confirm Maratita to the post.

Maratita was re-appointed by Gov. Benigno Fitial on Dec. 3. He will serve another four-year term, which will expire on Sept. 5, 2013.

In his re-appointment letter, Fitial said that Maratita is qualified for the post and will be an asset on the MVA board.

Another re-appointee, Charles Cepeda, for the Northern Marianas College board of regents, has yet to be confirmed, due to some documents that are still being awaited.

On Dec. 3, the governor also re-appointed Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero to the Marianas Public Land Trust. If confirmed by the Senate, he will serve another six-year term expiring on Jan. 8, 2016.

"MPLT plays an important role in the development of the Commonwealth, and the governor and I have every confidence that he will conscientiously devote his time and efforts in the best interest of all our people," Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos said in the re-appointment paper, adding that they are confident that Deleon Guerrero's membership on the MPLT board is critical and his nomination will ensure consistency and continuity in fulfilling the goals and objectives of the MPLT.

TINIAN

From Page 1

outgoing Tinian representative Edwin P. Aldan, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan for breach of fiduciary duty.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from the defendants.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the Superior Court to declare as unconstitutional Tinian Local Ordinance No. 16-02, which "authorizes the borrowing of funds from MPLT using Tinian casino gaming revenues and fees, and for other purposes."

The ordinance purportedly took effect on Oct. 21, 2009, upon Gov. Benigno Fitial's approval.

The plaintiffs asked the court to bar Jose San Nicolas, Henry San Nicolas, and Aldan from further pursuing the $1 million loan with MPLT.

They also asked for a court injunction preventing the defendants from making any realignment, reassignment, re-appointment, and repositioning of existing Tinian Municipality employees to other departments or divisions, as well as appointment of new employees.

They also asked the court to restrain the defendants from reprogramming municipal funds and from entering into "unusual, non-regular, and non-recurring business contracts" involving the use of Tinian Municipality funds.

Quichocho stated in the complaint that, on Oct. 20, 2009, exactly 18 days before the Nov. 7, 2009, general election, the 16th Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation adopted Tinian Local Bill 16-03, which became Tinian Local Ordinance 16-02.

Mendiola, Henry San Nicolas, and Aldan approved the adoption of the local bill. Hofschneider was the only delegation member who did not approve it.

A section of the local bill authorizes the "Municipality of Tinian, through the Mayor, to enter into a loan agreement with the MPLT for a negotiated principal amount plus interest and expenses for municipal and operational expenses."

Under the local bill, the mayor is authorized to, among other things, establish an MPLT loan trust account separate from any account of the municipality into which municipal casino gaming revenues shall be deposited as security each month for the monthly debt service and interest payments to MPLT.

Quichocho said that shortly after Fitial approved the local bill, Jose San Nicolas, as the sitting mayor, submitted a proposal to MPLT for a $1 million loan secured by Tinian's Casino Gaming Revenue.

On Oct. 30, 2009, the MPLT board of trustees unanimously adopted a resolution that approved in principle the $1 million loan proposal.

Despite the Senate counsel's legal opinion that says Tinian Local Bill 16-3 is unconstitutional, Jose San Nicolas and the other defendants remain adamant in pursuing the $1 million loan with MPLT, Quichocho said.

"From the standpoint of a taxpayer, each of the plaintiffs, including the people of Tinian, stand to suffer if the MPLT loan is pursued in that a substantial portion of the government casino revenues that erstwhile are being used to fund more essential needs of the people of Tinian, such as those in the field of health, education, and other public purposes, would instead be applied for debt servicing," he said.

The lawyer said the defendants have also engaged in a pattern of "midnight" transactions that are not necessary for the efficient administration of Tinian municipality affairs.

SENATE

From Page 1

Saipan LLC's project will not harm the environment.

To accommodate citizens' environmental concerns, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), author of Senate Resolution 16-49, made a floor amendment to the measure to make "satisfactory mitigation of environmental harm" a condition for any approval on any land lease involving the ship disposal project.

Of the eight of nine senators present yesterday, five voted "yes" on H.R. 16-49.

They included Hofschneider, Sen. Paterno Hocog (R-Rota), Sen. Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), Senate Vice Pres. Felix T. Mendiola (Cov-Rota), and Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan).

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) was the only one who voted "no."

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) abstained from voting.

Worldwide Salvage Saipan's $6-million investment includes building a dock facility on Saipan for its shipyard salvage operation at the Port of Saipan.

Reyes reiterated that the resolution conveys support to the project "only" if it follows "all" "legal and regulatory procedures."

Juan I. Tenorio, former chairman of the Tanapag Action Group which was instrumental in the federal government's treatment and cleanup of 40,000 tons of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated soil in Tanapag, said lawmakers should not be blinded by the promise of "some 250 jobs" without looking at the project's environmental impact.

"I won't compromise the environment with 250 jobs. We are not against giving jobs but we want to make sure the marine environment is also taken cared of," said Tenorio, who spoke with senators as a concerned citizen, when the Senate president opened the floor for public comment.

Tenorio said waste oil, scrap metals, other debris, as well as chemicals that will be brought by the ship disposal program are all harmful to the environment.

He said they will revive TAG to ensure that environmental impacts caused by Worldwide Salvage Saipan's project are addressed.

"We want to see the environmental impact study of this project," he added.

Juan M. Sablan, also a concerned citizen, said some states have declined such ship disposal projects because of their environmental impacts.

He said the shipyard will definitely cause "eye sores" to tourism.

Tenorio said the CNMI should learn from the lessons of PCBs in Tanapag, which took more than 50 years to be cleaned up. He added that Saipan still has to deal with "heavy metals contamination, PCB contamination in I-Denni, and military tanks in Tanapag."

STUDENTS

From Page 1

population in the Commonwealth.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, along with medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom and epidemiologist Edward Diaz, reported that a total of 5,468 elementary and high school students are now protected from the influenza virus.

The 62 percent exceeds the target and expectation for the CNMI, according to the health officials.

The number is still expected to rise as the vaccination campaign is still being conducted in other schools such as Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School, which are scheduled this week.

Villagomez, who just came from a health conference in the U.S. mainland, described the figure as "impressive" compared other U.S. states and territories, which posted lower turnouts. He disclosed that many states had below 50 percent turnout in student respondents.

Compared to elementary schools, which recorded over 3,500 participants two weeks ago, health representatives noted some minor challenges in high schools due to the inoculation period falling on finals week.

The CNMI is allocated 56,000 H1N1 vaccines for three islands.

The first shipment of the vaccines were provided to priority groups that included infants, pregnant women, and health care providers.

Villagomez disclosed that a total of 15,000 vaccines are currently on hand at the hospital. Another 19,000 doses are on the way to the CNMI this week.

DPH will open up the vaccines to the general public on Saturday between 9am and 2pm at the immunization clinic on Navy Hill. The process is on first come-first served basis.

Next week, all private health clinics will be provided doses.

Brostrom said that it is their goal to complete the vaccination program by end of the year. He emphasized that the hospital want to make sure the bulk of the community is inoculated before the seasonal flue outbreak occurs.

The CNMI's records remain clean in terms of flu-related deaths, compared to other states and territories like Guam, which has 2 fatalities.

Villagomez described the two-week distribution process of the vaccines as "great" because it prevents the hospital from keeping and storing the vaccines on island.

Though there are some few side effects such as allergy, health officials said the vaccines are "effective and safe."

Brostrom and Diaz described the occurrence of side effects as "very rare." "It's like 2 out of 7,000," they said.

H1N1 vaccines produced by one company were recently recalled in the U.S. mainland. Villagomez pointed out, though, that the CNMI's vaccines were not produced by that company.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitial issued the memorandum on Dec. 16, but the effective date of the temporary stop to the processing of "all" personnel actions is Dec. 7.

The governor said no processing and approval of personnel actions should occur "until such time that the Transition Reports have been submitted" to his office for review.

"Personnel actions will only be processed per my instructions through my written authorization," Fitial told department and activity heads.

Newly elected and re-elected Republican officials on Tinian earlier filed a temporary restraining order against the outgoing Tinian elected officials' move to laterally transfer "over 80 Tinian municipal employees to other agencies on Tinian."

The court denied the temporary restraining order but an injunction hearing is set for today.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who was among those who filed the temporary restraining order, said the issue may now be "moot" because of Fitial's memorandum ceasing all processing of personnel actions.

Teresa Kim, interim press secretary, said yesterday that all processing of personnel actions have ceased, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the governor, including the lateral transfers of Tinian municipal employees.

"The earliest possible time for personnel actions to resume is after the transition reports have been submitted and the governor and lt. governor have reviewed them," said Kim, who is also the legal counsel for Inos.

Transition reports

Clyde Norita, vice chair of the Transition Committee, said the Transition Reports are expected to be delivered to Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos by Jan. 2, 2010.

The committee, chaired by Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho, who also chairs the Covenant Party, has started its top to bottom review of 24 Executive Branch agencies and programs ahead of Fitial's second term in office.

Camacho and Norita are among the 20 team leaders of the ongoing review of all government operations in an effort to ensure that government resources are being spent wisely and policies are being carried out that provide a real and true benefit to every citizen.

Norita said the teams' initial draft report is due on Monday, Dec. 21.

"However, we want to complete all reports by Dec. 30 and deliver to the governor and lt. governor by Jan, 2, 2010," Norita said in response to *Saipan Tribune* inquiry.

Norita also noted that Camacho is briefing Fitial and Inos on the transition team's progress "on a daily basis."

Fitial, 64, will be sworn into office on Jan. 11, 2010, at 3pm, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

He is only the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected and the first to win in the islands' first gubernatorial runoff election. He was first elected as governor in November 2005 and was sworn into office in January 2006.

Fitial is also the first and probably the only governor to serve a five-year term because of a newly ratified legislative initiative that requires the holding of general elections only on even-numbered years. Anyone who succeeds Fitial will go back to serving a four-year term.

China flight crews to get expedited visas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) says the U.S. State Department will offer expedited processing of U.S. visa for crew members of airlines signed on to the new visa waiver program for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sablan

"This is part of the on-going efforts to iron out any of the kinks in implementing Secretary Napolitano's decision to allow Chinese and Russian tourists to continue to enter the Northern Marianas visa-free," said Sablan.

"I continue to be working with the State Department to make sure that flights between China and the Northern Mariana Islands are resumed and that no future problems arise that might lead to another suspension of flights."

One possible problem for the flights is that the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in the Department of Homeland Security has determined that foreign pilots and crew of airlines traveling between China and the CNMI will still require visas. Only the passengers, visitors for business or pleasure, are covered by Napolitano's directive.

In response, U.S. consular sections in China have offered expedited processing of the needed U.S. visas for the crew members of the airlines that have indicated they will be flying the China-NMI route.

"I am very appreciative of the responsiveness and understanding of U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman in Beijing and Consul General Beatrice Camp in Shanghai," said Sablan.

Sablan reported last week in a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that his office had been in constant contact with her Department's officials in response to interruption of flights from China that began when immigration control in the Marianas was turned over to the Federal government on November 28.

Prior to that date the U.S. Embassy in Beijing officially informed the Chinese government of the new policy allowing Chinese citizens visa-free travel to the Northern Mariana Islands for business and tourism.

Previously, the CNMI had issued a visitor entry permit to tourists, which was required for them to exit China. After November 28, passengers no longer had VEPs, and this may have caused concerns for charter flight operators.

"Once I brought this issue to the attention of the State Department," says Sablan, "the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai discussed the status of flights with Shanghai Airlines.

"I understand Shanghai Airlines outlined some questions caused by the new procedures, but is now ready to resume flights on December 18."

The U.S. government continues to work with the Chinese government to resolve any outstanding issues or problems. The Chinese government ensures that all Chinese laws and regulations on the exit requirements of their citizens are enforced. ***(PR)***

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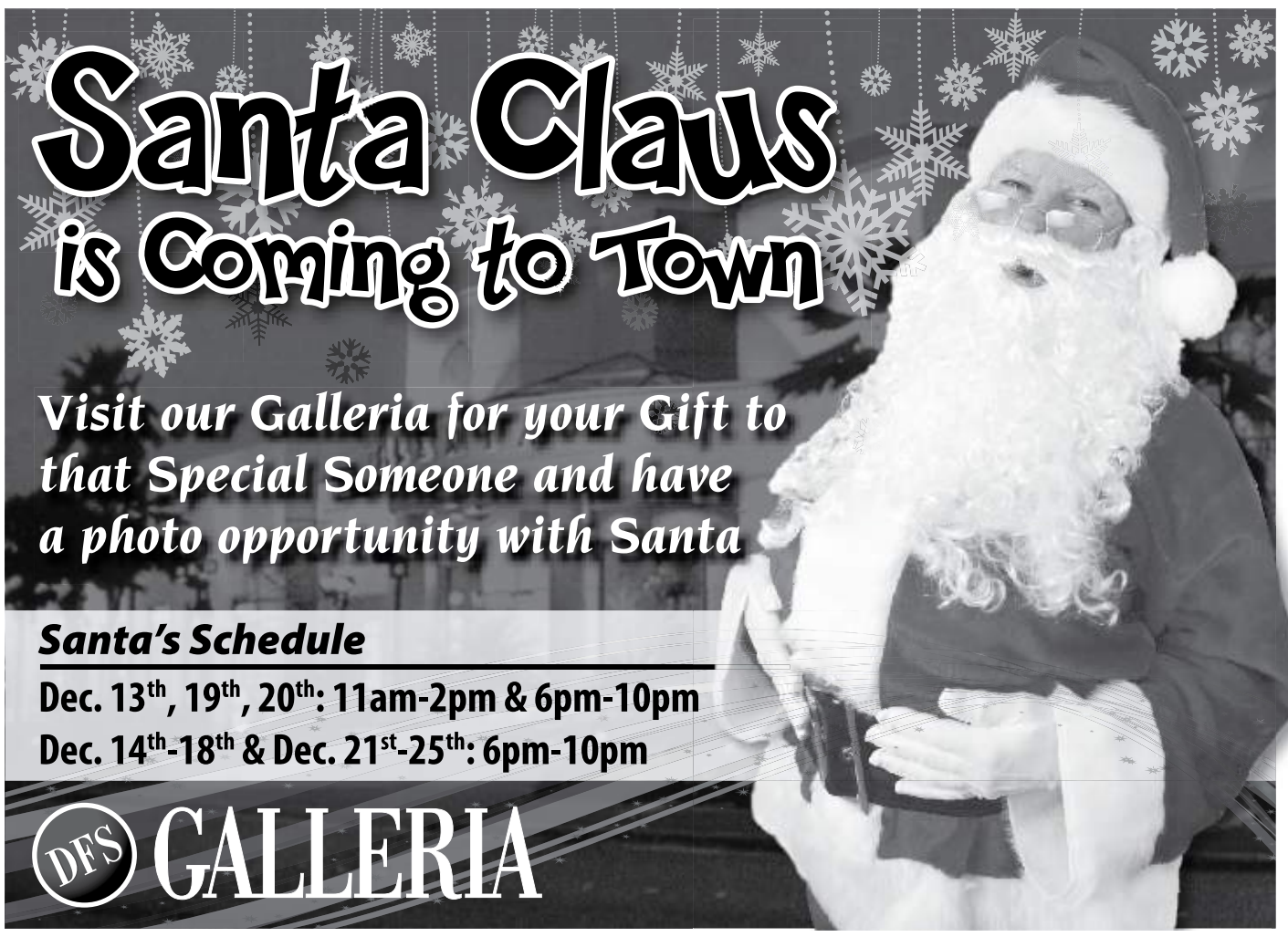
Questioning of witnesses in NI case concludes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Dec. 14th-18th & Dec. 21st-25th: 6pm-10pm
DFS GALLERIA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan, through his counsel, completed yesterday the examination of his witnesses.

During the hearing, attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Aldan, called his fourth and last witness—golfer Jesus Wabol.

Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog, a Northern Islands mayor candidate who filed a lawsuit against Aldan after she lost by a single vote, earlier called Wabol as among her witnesses.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman had already deemed Wabol to be qualified as a Northern Islands voter.

Torres called Wabol to the witness stand after completing his examination of Rebuenog.

On Wednesday, Torres called Terry Kisa of the Department of Public Lands, Julie Villagomez of the Commonwealth Election Commission, and Rebuenog.

Wiseman ordered the parties to file by Monday briefs regarding the challenged voters. The arguments will include the issue of Rebuenog's standing as a voter to contest. It will also include the briefing regarding that the challenged witnesses said on examination of who they voted for.

Wiseman is expected to rule by Monday whether Rebuenog is disqualified or not to be a voter for the Northern Islands.

Wiseman disqualified 15 voters and voided their votes. He upheld three voters.

Rebuenog filed the lawsuit to challenge 21 votes that she alleged were illegal.

DUI/sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting a series of DUI/sobriety checkpoints this week and next week.

■ On Dec. 18, 2009, the first setup will be on Kagman main road by the Kagman Community Center, from 8pm to 9:15pm. The second setup will be on 2W Puerto Rico by the Army Reserve Center, from 11:30pm to 12:45am.

■ On Dec. 19, 2009, the first setup will be on 16 Highway Chalan Kiya by the CUC Water Loo, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road San Antonio, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

■ On Dec. 24, 2009, the first setup will be on 2W Garapan by the Saipan Cockpit, from 8pm to 9:45pm. The second setup will be on 2W Chalan Laulau by the IT&E Building, from 11pm to 12:15am.

■ On Dec. 25, 2009, the first setup will be on As Lito Road by JTV Building, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second setup will be on Beach Road San Jose by the Morgen Building, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

■ On Dec. 26, 2009, the first setup will be on 2W Puerto Rico by the Army Reserve Center, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The second set up will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa by Triple J Fresh Market, from 12:30am to 1:45am.

■ On Dec. 31, 2009, the first setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Minachom Atdao, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm. The second setup will be on 16 Highway Chalan Kiya by the CUC Water Loo, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

■ On Jan. 1, 2010, the first setup will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by B&R Auto Shop intersection, from 9pm to 10:15pm. The second setup will be on 2W Gulao Rai by the Trans America Building, from 1:30am to 2:45am.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, traffic officer will be conducting Highway Criminal Interdiction, Saturation Patrols, aggressive Driver Interdiction and Laser Activities.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter and detect impaired motorist and ensure that all vehicle occupants and motorists are protected.

For more information, contact the Traffic Section Office for Sgt. Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9085/84. ***(DPS)***

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US Senate subcommittee to hold hearing on submerged lands bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests is conducting a legislative hearing on H.R. 934, the submerged lands bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 2:30pm EST (today, Saipan time).

"I want to thank Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman and Subcommittee Chairman Ron Wyden for providing space on their very busy agenda for the Northern Mariana Islands submerged lands bill," said Congressman Sablan. "It is very important to keep H.R. 934 moving forward through the legislative process."

Sablan's bill, which passed unanimously in the House of Representatives on July 15, 2009, conveys to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands land the submerged lands surrounding the islands out to 3 miles from the coastline.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes, House Speaker Arnold Palacios and the Friends of the Monument are all on record in support of Sablan's bill.

H.R. 934, Sablan says, returns to the people of the NMI that which they always believed to be theirs. During debate on the bill in July Sablan explained that "for at least 3,500 years, the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people have lived on these islands and fished and sailed in the waters around them. Never did we think them not our own, nor did the people of the Northern Mariana Islands ever believe, in entering the Covenant of Political Union with the United States of America, that we were relinquishing our rights and title to the submerged lands and waters surrounding us.

Sablan

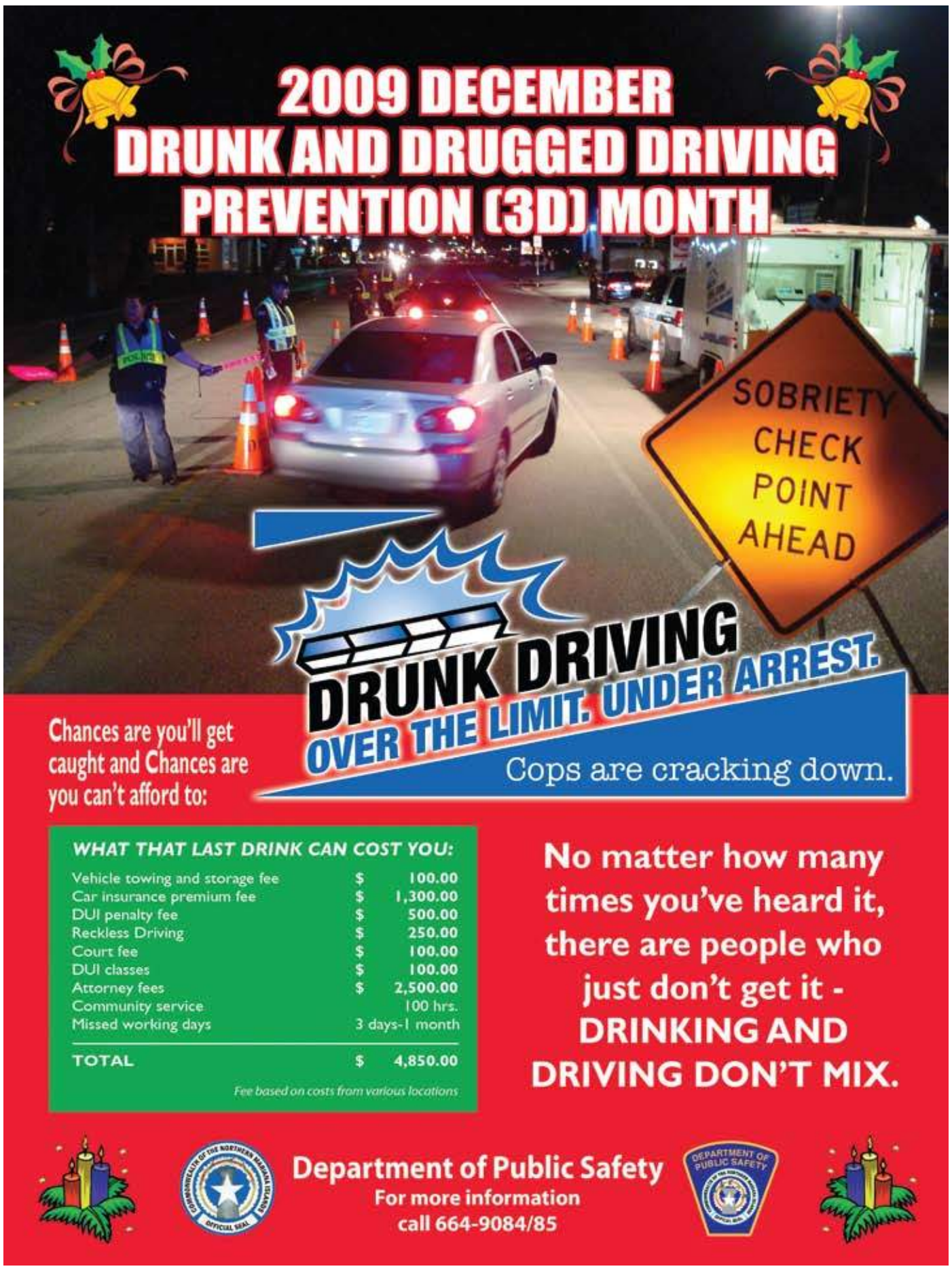
"These lands and waters have always been an integral part of our existence, essential to our being and livelihood and to the sense of who we are."

To view a copy of Sablan's submitted comments for the hearing, visit https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B5yOYxtEBY-VMzQ3MjlmNDEtMjZjYi00ZGY5LWIyNDEtYmY4OGMxNDIyYWZj&hl=en.

For more information about the subcommittee hearing, visit the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Web site at http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Home.Home. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET

- https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B5yOYxtEBY-VMzQ3MjlmNDEtMjZjYi00ZGY5LWIyNDEtYmY4OGMxNDIyYWZj&hl=en.
- http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Home.Home.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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 18, 1998

CNMI freezes hirings from China

Due to the refusal of the Beijing government to cooperate in accepting the return of its nationals deported from the commonwealth, the Northern Marianas has suspended indefinitely the issuance of entry permits to citizens of the People's Republic of China. This is the first time that the administration has taken a strong stance against the influx of Chinese nationals onto the islands whose growing presence in CNMI has worried both local and federal officials. Majority of the illegal aliens deported by the Department of Labor and Immigration are Chinese who either lack skills to qualify for employment or necessary working permits.

Health chief fires back at critics

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez issued a counterattack on critics who said the medical tests for foreign workers were in fact veiled attempt at raising money for the government. "All those accusations of certain people about our way of trying to make money for the government are just hogwash. It really bothers me to hear leaders supposedly of certain sectors in the community telling us that it's our way of making money for the government. That money never came to the Department of Public Health," Villagomez said. "We're not here to make money. I think if anything - just $2 or $3 went to the department for processing and moving things around," he added.

Dec 18, 2000

CNMI appeals for Bush's assistance

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said on Friday he is looking forward to working with President-elect George W. Bush to enhance relations with the CNMI and federal government. Citing his administration's policy of constructive engagement with federal officials despite differences on labor and immigration issues, the local chief executive asked the incoming U.S. leader to help the islands, particularly in the economy. "We will continue to follow that policy and we're looking forward to working with the new administration," he told reporters in an interview after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Kagman Community Center. "[I will ask the Bush administration] to please help us because we need help, especially now with our economy is still stagnant," added Mr. Tenorio.

Teno flies to Manila to receive Philippine Presidential Award

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio flew to Manila yesterday to receive a prestigious award from Philippine President Joseph Estrada for his commitment to promote the well-being and uplift the conditions of thousands of Filipinos in the Northern Marianas. Mr. Tenorio's trip to the Philippines coincides with the signing of the amended version of the existing bilateral labor agreement, which aims to further improve the working and living conditions of Filipino workers on the islands. The governor was accompanied by Philippine Consul Julia C. Heidemann, along with officials of the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration headed by Secretary Mark Zachares who will meet with their counterparts from Manila for the labor pact.

Dec. 18, 2001

Home haven no more for kids

Three members of a family residing in the Dandan homestead area were placed under investigation on complaints that they sexually and physically-abused a 12-year old female relative. The child abuse complaint, filed before the Department of Public Safety, alleged that the male suspects, aged 18 and 26, sexually molested the minor on August 10 and September 7, 2001, after midnight hours inside their residence. The men allegedly fondled her private parts while other family members were asleep. Another female suspect, a 22-year-old, allegedly physically harmed the victim in more than one occasion. At one time, the woman allegedly cut her hair and stabbed her scalp using a weapon. The female suspect also allegedly slapped her on the face when she came home one afternoon from attending a parent conference with an aunt.

Economic gloom plugs up shoppers from spending

Changes in the spending habit of consumers have forced commercial establishments and retail outlets to sell items at really low prices in order to reach sales target during the holidays. With a few days left before Christmas day, people are rushing to stores throughout the island for their holiday shopping and are now met with aggressive promotion and marketing efforts. Businesses are scrambling over the dwindling number of customers who have evidently practiced frugality notwithstanding the traditional extravagant shopping sprees during the holidays.

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2. Each bottle has a corresponding number, fill up the entry form below with your chosen bottle number together with your name, address, email, contact number and signature.
3. Submit your entry to I-Teck Computer Shop, located at Middle Road, Garapan area or PMB 124 Box 10000.
4. Deadline in submitting your votes/entries will be on December 31, 2009
5. The bottle with most number of votes or entries will be chosen and raffled
6. Draw will be on January 4, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at I-Teck Computer Shop
7. Grand Prize is a 2 days stay at Rota Resort for two, including food and transportation expenses.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XIX, Issue No. 302

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

An enemy within

Five young men from Northern Virginia are captured in Pakistan attempting to join in jihad. A U.S. permanent resident in Denver is arrested for trying to carry out a terror strike in New York. A Muslim convert living in North Carolina is accused of plotting an attack on military personnel at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va. An Illinois man and would-be mujahid is apprehended after a failed attempt to blow up a federal building in the state capital of Springfield.

Home-grown Islamic extremism was once thought to be the province of countries in Europe, Africa or South Asia, triggered by segregation, deprivation of educational or economic opportunities, or a domestic climate where extremist views are tolerated. We now know that the United States is not immune. In the past 12 months, the Department of Justice has identified a dozen cases of U.S. Muslims accused of terrorist activity or seeking terrorism training overseas. This pattern must be taken seriously and addressed.

The vast majority of American Muslims are law-abiding, upstanding citizens who vehemently shun the violence embraced by the radical and dangerous few. In many ways, American Muslims have the most to lose when extremists carry out their warped plans, and they suffer most when they are unjustly lumped in with the radicals.

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies have done a commendable job of disrupting plots. But more needs to be known about why and how some Americans are becoming radicalized. Were they recruited through the Internet? Did they, instead, use the Internet to seek out extreme views? Did those who chose a radical approach have the benefit of more mainstream views? There is also a need to understand the differences in each of these scenarios. Without that, there is a danger of would-be solutions that are ineffective or counterproductive.

Congress should establish a commission to study the roots of homegrown radicalism and to craft appropriate countermeasures. The Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Muslim Public Affairs Council are preparing to use the Internet and other new technologies to reach American Muslims to debunk radical interpretations of the Koran promulgated by extremists. The U.S. government, too, should step up outreach to American Muslims. Had the parents of the five Northern Virginia men not reported them missing, government officials might have learned of the men's quest too late.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

The ARCTIC COULD BE ICE-FREE in FIVE YEARS!!*
*NOT TRUE.
...and AL GORE COULD REDUCE HIS CARBON FOOTPRINT IF HE WASN'T SUCH a LIAR, LIAR, PANTS on FIRE.

America's decade of decline

By HAROLD MEYERSON
Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect *and the* L.A. Weekly.

This decade began and ended in dread. It began with Wall Street—the World Trade Center—targeted for mass murder. It ends with Main Street fearful and reeling from economic reverses that Wall Street helped create.

It was the decade of distraction. While the U.S. economy bubbled and then crumbled, the president for eight of the decade's 10 years embroiled us in a grudge match with Saddam Hussein and then persisted in throwing lives and money into the chaotic conflict that (as many predicted would happen) ensued. The decline of the American middle class was nowhere on his radar screen.

The stocks bubble of the late 1990s was succeeded by a bubble in housing; these were the engines of our economic growth. America's production of goods no longer received the level of investment that had made it the engine of our economic growth from the mid-19th century through the 1970s. The change began at the outset of the Reagan years, when the percentage of corporate profits retained for new investment dropped sharply. A report from the International Labor Organization published last week shows where the money went: to shareholder dividends, disproportionately benefiting the wealthy. In the prosperity years of 1946 to 1979, dividends constituted 23 percent of profits. From 1980 to 2008, they constituted 46 percent.

Finance boomed. The gap in annual wages between workers at financial companies and workers at non-financial companies, the ILO reports, grew from $11,000 in 1989 to $40,000 in 2007. The financial sector defended this shift by arguing that it had created many innovative financial products—the very financial products that managed to turn downturn into Great Recession. In an interview in Monday's Wall Street Journal, former Fed chief Paul Volcker said that he has "found very little evidence that vast amounts of innovation in financial markets in recent years have had a visible effect on the productivity of the economy." He went on to say: "All I know is that the economy was rising very nicely in the 1950s and 1960s without all of these innovations."

It was the decade of distraction. While the U.S. economy bubbled and then crumbled, the president for eight of the decade's 10 years embroiled us in a grudge match with Saddam Hussein and then persisted in throwing lives and money into the chaotic conflict that (as many predicted would happen) ensued. The decline of the American middle class was nowhere on his radar screen.

The dread in the land today isn't just a fear of losing your job—or of your spouse, sister, father or child losing his or hers. It's a fear that America has been hollowed out, that we don't have a sustainable path back to mass prosperity, let alone to economic preeminence. A poll taken last month for the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) shows that 44 percent of Americans considered China to be the world's leading economic power, while just 27 percent thought the United States still held that throne. Such fears can only be intensified by public policies that fail to champion America's national interests by fostering the flight of investment abroad.

Overcoming some of our national phobia about having an industrial policy, the Obama administration has rightly targeted the renewable energy sector for investment—a long overdue shift back to real, rather than financial, production. But we don't yet have policies to ensure that the real production we're fostering is done at home. As Joan Fitzgerald, director of the Law, Policy and Society program at Northeastern University, notes in a recent article, 84 percent of the $1.05 billion in federal clean-energy grants distributed since September has gone to foreign wind turbine manufacturers. Unionized, high-wage Germany and non-unionized, low-wage China both have thriving windpower industries that profitably export their products to us. We have shunned policies that bolster domestic production, which is why more Americans are betting on China's economy than on our own.

The problem is that America's economic elites have thrived on the financialization and globalization of the economy that have caused the incomes of the vast majority of their fellow Americans to stagnate or decline. The insecurity that haunts their compatriots is alien to them. Fully 85 percent of Americans in that CFR-sponsored poll said that protecting U.S. jobs should be a top foreign policy priority, but when the pollsters asked that question of the council's own members, just 21 percent said that protecting American jobs should be a top concern.

The moral world that we see in that poll is the moral world of Charles Dickens. Of the elite of his day, he wrote in "Bleak House," "there is much good in it. ..." But, he continued, "it is a world wrapped up in too much jeweller's cotton and fine wool, and cannot hear the rushing of the larger worlds, and cannot see them as they circle round the sun. It is a deadened world, and its growth is sometimes unhealthy for want of air."

America, at the end of this dreadful decade.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't ask me

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Holiday gatherings allowed me to see my nieces and nephews, a few of whom are just hitting college age and who are consequently puzzling out career goals and such. Since I never bought a ticket on the Blabbermouth Express, I have never inflicted unsolicited wisdom on those kids, and even when it comes to the solicited stuff I just say, in so many polite words, "go ask your parents."

My reticence is habitual and long-standing, because facts and opinions can start hiding behind each other, and since good data doesn't always create reliable abstractions. So, while I can tell somebody what my work experiences were like, there's no guarantee, or even a high probability, that someone else's experiences will be the same as mine were. People are different, circumstances are different, trends are different, and the ultimate boss of the universe, randomness, will steer your ship of fate with sneering disregard for your navigation plan.

Furthermore, my nieces and nephews who are at "making decisions age" are sensible kids with a lot of self-discipline. They're already aiming to do what I would advise them to do anyway, were I to open up my yapper: Get the best and most technically-based education and training possible, and don't get derailed by distractions. The world largely belongs to the technical specialists and experts. These kids know that. They already know that in just a few years, the roads available to them will be defined by one very thin sheet of paper with their credentials listed on it. So anything I would have to say is superfluous, and I'm happy to keep quiet.

But when they graduate from college, if I think of it I'll give them what I gave my little brother when he graduated: A copy of Robert Ringer's *Winning Through Intimidation*, a useful guide to how the real world works and how you can claw your way through the jungle without getting eaten by the predators. The book was a hit in the 70's, despite the title, which makes the book sound obnoxious (it's not).

Anyway, anyone younger than graduation age won't appreciate the book. Anyone much older will smack themselves for not having read it earlier (I know I did). So, graduation time is just about right.

In fact, while I'm thinking of Mr. Ringer and the advice gig, I want to share his introduction to another book of his, *Looking out for #1*. Says Ringer: "There are no ulterior motives involved. I'm not out to convert you to a cause, to enlist your aid in destroying an 'evil,' or to gain your support for or against anything." Sounds good to me, since I'm not a crusader, either.

I've just noted that three of my favorite Robert Ringer books were bought at National Book Store in Manila. Each was 145.5 pesos at the time. Those were to replace the ones I had left behind in the states.

If you think Ringer's 1970s run is old-school, then consider another source of good advice, *The Art of Worldly Wisdom*. This was published by the Jesuit scholar Baltasar Gracian in 1647. The last time I checked it was still in print. If I could summarize the book, it would be: Keep your mouth shut, don't be an irritant to people, don't be a busybody, don't be a show off, mind your own business, and don't upstage your boss. The book is an easy read because it's a collection of pithy aphorisms, making it great for traveling when your (well, mine, anyway) attention span is flighty but you want something to read anyway.

As a follow up to last week's column, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner did take flight two days ago. On a semi-related note, their biggest airliner yet, the 747-8, should take wing in a few weeks; this is a stretched version of the 747, which is certainly well-known in Saipan.

And, since I'm doing a follow up, I might as well do a heads up, too, and mention that there is some slightly good economic news for Saipan's entrepreneurs, which I'll probably kick off the New Year with in my Jan. 1. column.

A loan to build a home with

By EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Special to the Tribune

Efrain F. Camacho is the president for Citizens for Change of Article XII.

The Wednesday edition of the *Saipan Tribune* on page 3 says "NMHC: Lack of funding a barrier to affordable housing." The article mentioned that "The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. cited the lack of funding as a major barrier to affordable housing in the Commonwealth, based on the annual performance and evaluation report it will submit to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. " The article continues, "Another barrier is Article 12, which restricts landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Mariana descent…" The article went on to say that "Article 12 is also considered a barrier to affordable housing because this law restricts fee simple ownership to CNMI descendants and discourages speculative housing finance and construction, according to NMHC."

We, the Citizens for a Change to Article XII, have brought forth several points about Article XII that are clearly detrimental to the welfare of the CNMI. Unlike anywhere else in the USA, fee simple ownership of land is limited to CNMI descendants. All others, including financing institutions, are subject to limited ownership of 55 years.

It is common anywhere in the USA (including Guam) to use land as collateral in securing a loan, most commonly for the construction of a house on that same land that is used for collateral. So that the monthly payments on the loan are affordable, the payments are spread out over many years, some over 20 and 30 years, thus a 20- or 30-year mortgage.

However, Article XII limits ownership of land to 55 years for anyone not of NMD descent, including lending institutions. Would you lend out your money on a transaction that has a limited time life? How would you feel if the person or family you lend out your money found them unable to pay you the agreed monthly payment on the 20th year? Remember, since you are not a CNMI descent, you only have a 55-year ownership of the land. Can you sell the loan knowing that you only have 30 years remaining?

Perhaps you can. However, you would be at a tremendous disadvantage and would most likely sell at a loss since you only have 30 years remaining. This risk is too much to take and thus affordable housing in the CNMI will never be available.

The alternative is to have rich parents or have at least $250,000 in your savings that you could use to build your house without affecting your daily expenses. We all know that many of us do not have such cash.

However, many of us can indeed afford a monthly payment on a loan for a house if it were not for Article XII. The reality is that so long as Article XII is in place, young families will find it hard and perhaps impossible to be owners of a house.

I know of several young couples who are still sharing a house with their parents as they simply do not have the cash to build a house. Yet, their income is such that they can afford a loan with reasonable interest rates if it was available like in Guam and elsewhere in the USA. A loan to build the house.

Fighting a pre-existing condition: Greed

By STEVE LOPEZ
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Growing old, particularly in this economy, is not for sissies. Just ask Bob and Roselee Packham of Santa Monica, Calif.

Bob, 63, recently lost his job with a company that does audiovisual work at conferences and meetings. That left them with the small salary Roselee, also 63, earns in a part-time position at their synagogue. Bob continues his search for work.

Light a candle for them and others like them, if you're so inclined.

Not that the Packhams are broke, or anywhere near the edge of the cliff. That's what's so scary about this recession. As usual, the poorest among us are taking the biggest hit, but this one is hammering the solidly middle class as well.

In the case of the Packhams, they're dipping into the nest egg they built for retirement to pay the mortgage on their town house, and what's more, they are trapped in our nation's enduring, made-in-America hell of medical insurance lunacy.

You know the hell I'm talking about -- the one in which you find your blurred vision further clouded by the language of COBRA, which will cost one or more limbs but might keep you covered until you find your next job, where of course you'll be denied health care insurance because you had asthma in eighth grade.

What, you've got a minor case of Crohn's disease, and you expect our company to insure you?

That's what Roselee ran into with the AARP insurance program.

Hey, wait a minute. Wasn't that the American Association of Retired Persons? If anybody would understand the health insurance needs of people in the September of their lives, wouldn't it be the AARP?

"I had breast cancer," said Roselee, but that wasn't the hang-up. It was the Crohn's, despite the fact that she has a mild, effectively managed case of the inflammatory disease of the intestines.

So when Bob lost his job in October, they signed up for COBRA, the program that temporarily allows continued group coverage for people who lose their jobs. But the premiums are punishing and the coverage minimal, so they're watching closely and with rising blood pressure as the health care reform debate plays out in Washington, D.C.

Before I went to visit the Packhams, I got a letter from Bob that laid out his beef and his call for Congress to "make health care more reasonable for both patients and the medical industry and less of a gold mine for (the) medical insurance industry."

Bob wrote:

"During 2009, my medical insurance company will pocket approximately $975 a month from me and my wife," as well as from his former employer, which bills a temporary federal program for two-thirds of that $975 COBRA payment for Bob and Roselee's extended coverage.

"That's $11,700 a year for a plan with a $9,800 deductible. As December begins, I have not yet hit the deductible," wrote Bob. He and his wife have been pretty healthy, but they're still paying out co-pays and prescription costs, in addition to the COBRA payments. So for the year, Bob and Roselee's medical coverage will have cost $20,000, and their insurance company will have paid "exactly $00.00 in benefits."

The $20,000, Bob said, "is more than I will pay for my mortgage, more than I paid last year in federal and state income taxes, more than groceries, auto insurance, religious dues. In fact, it is the most expensive item in my budget."

Bear with him for a moment, because Bob's got just a bit more to unload.

"I understand that for 2010, the insurance company is going to increase the premium to more than $1,100 per month. For that kind of money, I could lease two Cadillacs and have money left over for the gas."

Yes, he's a little worked up, and understandably so.

The Packhams, like so many others who've been knocked around by this economy, never imagined they'd be hanging by their fingernails to the bottom rungs of the middle class. Fortunately they're not carrying much debt, and Bob thinks the economy will pick up in January and he'll find work.

Or so he says.

It's called denial, said Roselee, and Bob had to agree.

"I'm scared," Roselee admitted at her kitchen table, wondering what they'll have to give up and how they'll get by if things don't turn around soon.

They're scared -- and angry too -- at how crippling health care costs can be, even if you're not sick. And yet the bickering bozos with the best health insurance in the land haven't been able to rise above special interests and partisan politics and deliver a reform package that doesn't cripple American families.

The Packhams count themselves lucky their two adult children are off the payroll, and Roselee's dad lives with them, kicking $500 a month into the family kitty. Roselee started collecting Social Security a bit on the early side, and even if Bob keeps striking out on the job market, the Packhams think they can scrape by until they turn 65 and switch to Medicare.

Last week, their spirits lifted when lawmakers floated proposals to lower the Medicare eligibility age to 55 in some cases and to replace the dead-on-arrival public option with a nonprofit option.

"My doctor said that back in the day when medical insurance was more nonprofit-based, more of the money went to patient care," said Bob.

As for changing the Medicare eligibility age to 55, Bob said it sounds good. But he wants more details on the cost, and he fears that even if it adds up, he may be close to 65 before the change kicks in.

Any system, though, that puts more money into patient care and less into corporate profit will make Bob healthier and happier.

"I believe that most of the money I have paid to the medical insurance company is profit," he wrote me in his e-mail, a small masterpiece of moral indignation.

"I believe that some of that profit is used to lobby our Congress and to stir up the public with TV advertising, radio blowhards and political action in order to perpetuate this outrageous financial scheme which so enriches them."

I think I've got a solution to Bob's unemployment problem:

Bob for Congress.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

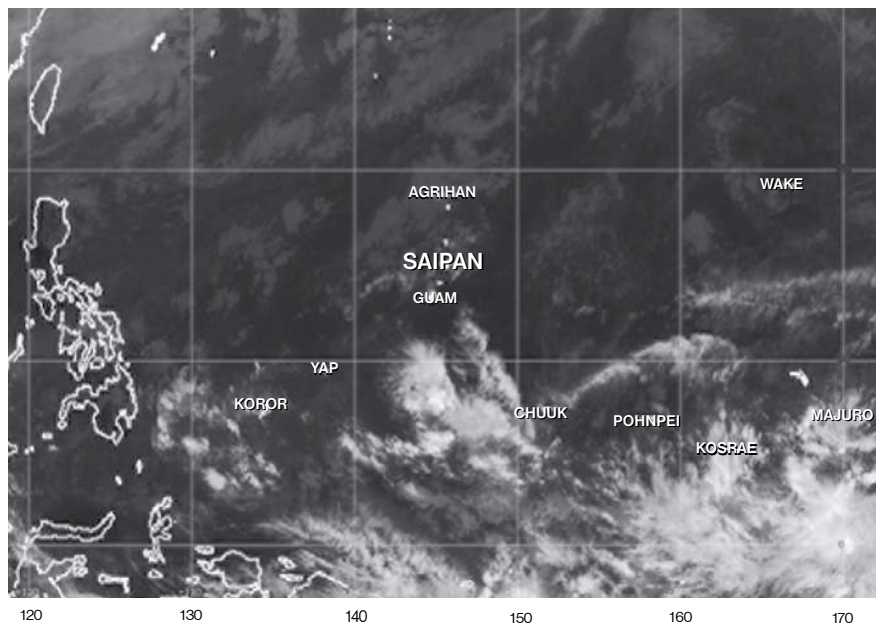
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲73	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲28	▼11
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼50
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼67
London	Flurries	▲36	▼30
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲88	▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲74	▼56
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼64
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲35	▼26
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼28
Paris	Flurries	▲30	▼21
Pusan	Sunny	▲38	▼17
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼34
Salem	Rain	▲49	▼39
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲58	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲21	▼4
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲39	▼29
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼28

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 20N135E then westward past 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles north of the front. A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from 3N130E to a weak circulation near 4N135E then eastward to a developing circulation near 2N168E. Scattered showers are southwest of Palau within 100 miles of a line from 7N131E to 3N133E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of Guam and west of Chuuk in an area from 10N145E to 4N154E to 5N140E back to 10N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae and Tarawa are south of 6N from 158E to 173E. A weak circulation just east of Majuro is near 7N178E with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 60 miles of a line from 8N174E to 7N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:50 AM	7:18 PM
Saturday	7:34 AM	8:09 PM
Sunday	8:15 AM	8:58 PM
Monday	9:53 AM	9:46 PM
Tuesday	9:29 AM	10:32 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka effective Dec 19 Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka effective Dec 18 Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Dr. Inos honored in Kilili fellowship bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced legislation yesterday creating a fellowship program named in honor of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos. The legislation, H.R. 4339, is intended to improve civic engagement by providing funds for students from the Northern Mariana Islands to work for congressional offices, federal agencies, and CNMI government agencies.

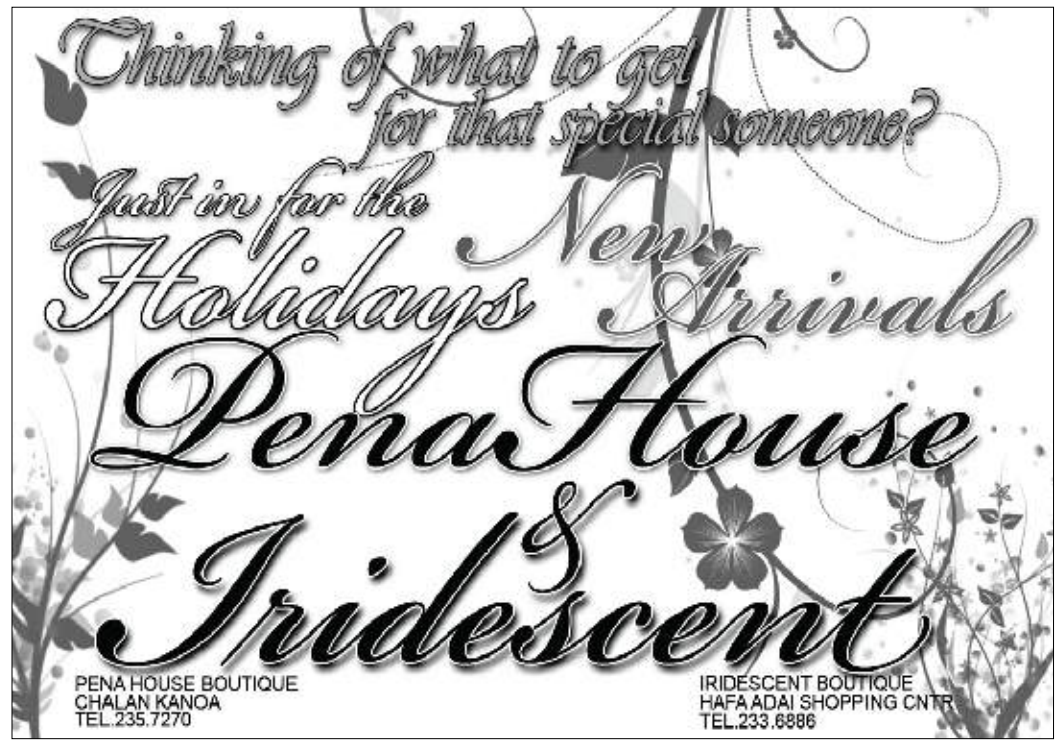
Sablan

Inos

"Dr. Inos dedicated her life to ensuring that our young people had the educational experiences and opportunities to do something great," said Sablan. "I am so happy to be able to honor her in this way, and I know the successes of the young people who will benefit from this program will be the best possible testament to her memory."

The Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowships would be administered by the Department of the Interior, which would make awards to college students for a summer, fall, or spring semester fellowship. Students would be able to receive pay or college credit, and receive a travel stipend. An initial appropriation of $1 million per year is required by the legislation.

The bill will be referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, which will begin to examine it when the House of Representatives reconvenes in January. ***(PR)***



Serenity Salon & Spa

25% Discount
on All Services
December 18, 19 & 20, 2009 only
(9:00am - 9:00pm)

Christmas Holiday Promo

For the whole month of December 2009

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Body Scrub w/ Honey Body Polish
Serenity Signature Massage
Deep Cleansing Facial
Brazilian Wax / Underarm Wax

Package B $75.00
Body Scrub w/ Honey Body Polish
Serenity Signature Massage
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa

Package C $65.00
Serenity Signature Massage
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa
Manicure

Package D $55.00
Serenity Signature Massage
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa

Package E $60.00
Body Scrub w/ Honey Body Polish
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa

Package F $55.00
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa
Manicure / Pedicure
Hair Cut

Package G $50.00
Deep Cleansing Facial
Hair Spa
Manicure / Pedicure

SERENITY SIGNATURE MASSAGE	$ 25.00
AROMA MASSAGE (45 MINS.)	$ 20.00
QUICK STRESS MASSAGE (30 MINS.)	$ 15.00
ANTI-AGING FACIAL	$ 35.00
DEEP CLEANSING FACIAL	$ 25.00
AROMA FACIAL	$ 25.00
TEEN FACIAL	$ 20.00
EYELASH PERMING	$ 20.00
MANICURE / PEDICURE	$ 18.00
FOOT SPA WITH FOOT MASSAGE	$ 15.00
HAIR REBONDING (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$
HAIR RELAX (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$
HAIR CUT WITH SHAMPOO & BLOW DRY	$ 12.00
HAIR CUT LADIES	$ 10.00
HAIR CUT MEN	$ 7.00
HAIR PERMING	$ 30.00
HAIR AND MAKE-UP	$ 22.00
HALF LEGS WAXING	$ 20.00
BACK WAXING	$ 20.00
BRAZILLIAN WAXING	$ 20.00
BIKINI WAXING	$ 15.00
UNDER ARM WAXING	$ 10.00
EYEBROW WAXING	$ 8.00
EYEBROW THREADING	$ 5.00
MUSTACHE TREADING	$ 5.00

WEEKLY SPECIAL

TUESDAY:	MEN'S HAIR CUT	$ 5.00
	LADIES' HAIR CUT	$ 8.00
WEDNESDAY:	FACIAL	$ 20.00
THURSDAY:	HAIR SPA	$ 15.00

$100.00 Special
4 Body Scrub w/ Honey Body Polish - $100.00
5 Serenity Signature Massage - $100.00
5 Facial Treatment - $100.00
5 Foot Spa with Pedicure - $100.00

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- Please contact 989-1328

Customer Appreciation Christmas Sale!

50%-75% OFF - Selected Toys
25% OFF on New Arrivals (Toys)
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Samsung TwoStep $159 CDMA
Samsung Sway $159 CDMA
Audiovox 6700 $129 CDMA
Motorola Razr VE20 $129 CDMA
LG ax275 $75 CDMA
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2010 models have arrived!
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KIA MOTORS
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The New Kia Soul
A New Way To Roll.
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Soul's cutting edge technology and inspiring design will define your personality. You will love the ample space, distinctive styling and extra flexibility that have been created to exceed your expectations.
The New Kia Forte
The first of its kind.
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A unique combination of class-leading standard horsepower, fuel efficiently and advanced standard features. Six Standard Airbags, Traction Control and MP3/USB Input
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2009 MODELS CLEARANCE
NISSAN | STOCK # | Color | Discount
~~Sentra~~ | ~~9L68616~~ SOLD | ~~White~~ | ~~$3,500.00~~
Altima Coupe | 9C188411 | Red | $3,500.00
~~Quest S~~ | ~~9N1037~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
~~Murano SL~~ | ~~9W1006~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
FORD | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Ranger XL | 9PA13734 | White | $2,500.00
Fusion SE | 9R137166 | Smoke | $3,000.00
HONDA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
~~Fit Sport~~ | ~~9S05442~~ SOLD | ~~Silver~~ | ~~$3,000.00~~
~~Civic LX~~ | ~~9L01545~~ SOLD | ~~Blue~~ | ~~$3,000.00~~
Civic Hybrid | 9S007352 | Gray | $3,500.00
~~Accord LXP~~ | ~~8A10311~~ SOLD | ~~Gold~~ | ~~$4,000.00~~
Odyssey EX | 9B017464 | White | $4,000.00
KIA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Sedona LX | 86235463 | White | $3,500.00
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Serenity Salon and Spa is giving away an early Christmas gift this weekend.

Avail any of the services offered at the Garapan salon and spa starting today until Sunday, Dec. 20, and receive a 25 percent discount.

Discounted rates are available for massage, facial, haircut, relax, treatment, waxing, threading, pedicure and manicure, and make-up services.

Serenity guaranteed its patrons that although they lowered their rates, customers will still enjoy full service from their friendly and expert staff.

For the massage, Serenity is offering its signature one-hour massage for only $18.75 (regular rate is $25). The 45-minute aroma massage will cost you only $15, while you will shell out only $11.25 for a 30-minute quick stress massage.

The four facial services (anti-aging, deep cleansing, aroma, and teen) are available at the lowest rate of $15 and highest rate of $26.25.

Serenity said these services will be available from 9am to 9pm for three days and are open both for walk-in customers and those who will be making reservations.

Customers who will miss this weekend's promotion can still avail of Serenity's discounted rates on weekdays.

Every Monday, Serenity is offering its signature massage for only $20, while the $5 and $8 haircuts for men and women, respectively, are available every Tuesday. Wednesday's special is the $20 facial, while hair spa is offered at a discounted rate of $15 every Thursday.

Monthlong holiday promo

For people who are still looking for gifts for their love ones, Serenity is suggesting a selection of seven packages to pamper one after a year of ups and downs.

Package A, which only costs $100, include a body scrub with honey body polish, Serenity signature massage, deep cleansing facial, and a choice of Brazilian waxing or underarm waxing.

Package B will give one body scrub with honey body polish, Serenity signature massage, deep cleansing facial, and hair spa for only $75; Package C ($65) has Serenity signature massage, deep cleansing facial, hair spa, and manicure; Package D ($55), has Serenity signature massage, deep cleansing facial, and hair spa; Package E ($60) has body scrub with honey body polish, deep cleansing facial, and hair spa; Package F ($55) has deep cleansing facial manicure and pedicure, hair cut, and hair spa; and Package G ($50) has deep cleansing facial, hair spa, and manicure and pedicure.

Serenity also has a $100 special for four selection of services, namely a four-session body scrub with honey body polish, five-session Serenity signature massage, five-session of facial treatment, and five-session foot spa with pedicure.

All these offers are available for the whole month of December and costumers can pay cash or purchase Serenity gift certificates to enjoy these promotion. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MHS' Serrano wins Bank of Guam's 2010 calendar contest

Free calendars at branches while supplies last

HAGATNA, Guam—A twelfth-grader from the Marianas High School on Saipan has been named the primary winner in the Bank of Guam's Seventh Annual Calendar Photo Contest.

Klynne Serrano's photo submission was chosen as the cover of the calendar, which has the theme "Living the Island Spirit – Cultural Celebrations."

Two other students from Marianas High School and one from Saipan Southern High School were also declared winners in the contest, with their entries chosen for the Month's Photo.

A total of 20,000 copies of the calendar have been printed for distribution throughout the Bank of Guam branch network system. They will be available while supplies last.

The contest was open to high school students throughout the Bank of Guam branch network. Cash prizes were awarded for the Cover Photo ($250) and each Month's Photo ($150).

The other contest winners are:

- January, Chloe Hidalgo, 12th grader from St. Paul Christian School, Guam
- February, Rachell Mae Brigino, 11th grader from Notre Dame High School, Guam
- March, Daniel Soto, 11th grader from George Washington High School, Guam
- April, Elizabeth Toves , 12th grader from Notre Dame High School, Guam
- May, Floresa Santos, 12th grader from Notre Dame High School, Guam
- June, Sujung Song, 11th grader from Saipan Southern High School
- July, Jenegua Benavente, 12th grader from Marianas High School Saipan
- August, Amber Camacho, 11th grader from Notre Dame High School, Guam
- September, Jermaine Sanders, 10th grader from Asmuyao Community School, Guam
- October, Justin Cabrera, 12th grader from Marianas High School, Saipan
- November, Don Martinez, 12th grader from St. Paul Christian School, Guam
- December, Licie Ye, 9th grader from Harvest Christian Academy, Guam

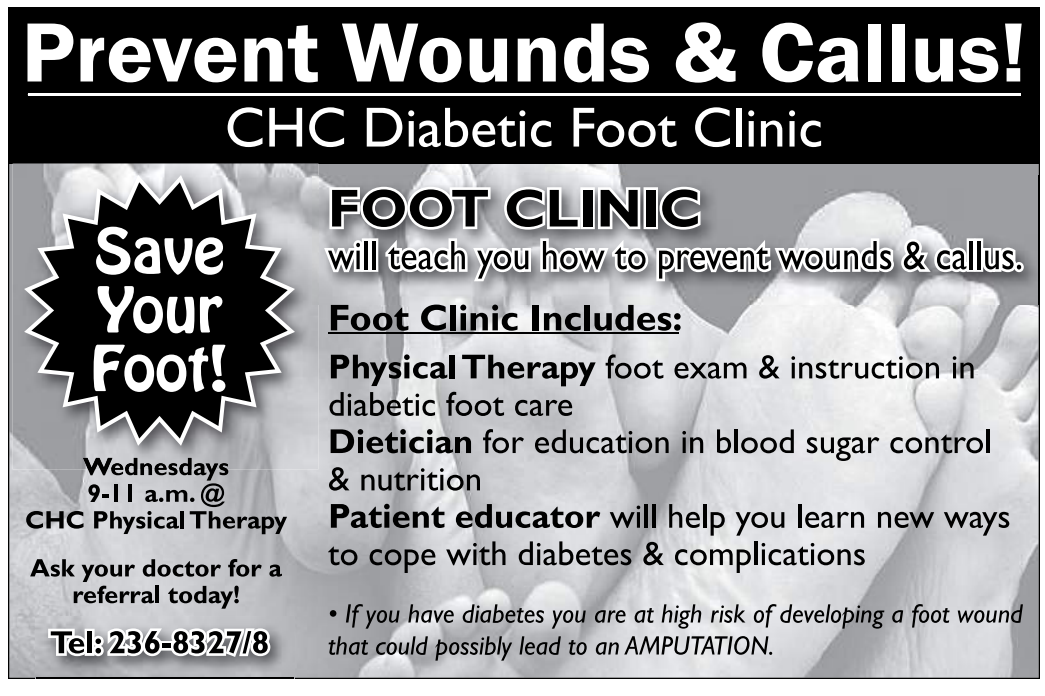
The Bank of Guam features the winning photos on its Web site www.bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

ON THE NET

- www.bankofguam.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Jermaine Sanders, Chloe Hidalgo, Daniel Soto, William D. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam executive vice president and board vice chair; Rachell Mae Brigino, Elizabeth Toves, Floresa Santos, Amber Camacho, and Don Martinez.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• If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.

LaoLao Bay resort donates $20K to diabetes group

Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition received a $20,000 donation from Saipan Laulau Development Inc.

The donation will allow the diabetes coalition "to continue to provide free health screening opportunities; media awareness; professional development training; among other things." Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort president Yun Kim said.

He added that their company understands the importance of community involvement in order to make a difference in the health status of the people.

"By partnering with the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, it would provide us the opportunity to play an active role in addressing the burden of diabetes," he said.

A non-profit organization through the Ayuda Network, Inc., the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is committed to improve opportunities, build capacity and enhance wellness benefits for persons diagnosed with diabetes and those at risk.

Fundraising chair, Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, thanked LaoLao for its generosity and commitment to the people of the CNMI. "The Commonwealth has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world! And worse, around two-thirds of them do not even know they have it! It is definitely a daunting task which will require the involvement of the whole community," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left executive director of Ayuda Network, Inc. Diana Camacho, Diabetes Coalition vice chair Louise Oakley, LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort president Yun Kim, Diabetes Coalition Fundraising chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, Diabetes Coalition secretary Polly Omechlang and LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort Human Resources manager Marylou Ada.

Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition vice chair Louise Oakley stated that collaboration with various non-governmental organizations as well as the business sector is a key factor in addressing the burden of diabetes in the CNMI. She also thanked LaoLao for their donation and active involvement in order to make a difference in the health status of the CNMI.

"We would like to extend our appreciation to Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort for their partnership and commitment to creating a healthier CNMI," said Diana Camacho, executive director of the Ayuda Network, Inc. "Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, please call the Ayuda Network, Inc. at 322-7469 or the Diabetes Program at 664-4030. We are always looking for volunteers." ***(PR)***

8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas to be held tomorrow

Be sure to make time this Saturday for a popular local tradition: the Annual Christmas in the Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority is inviting everyone to join the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas festivities to be held tomorrow, Dec. 19, 2009.

The Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration includes events that will appeal to all members of the family. First on the agenda is the Health Walk sponsored by the Marianas Walking Association. Following the walk, the celebration will highlight a parade contest complete with floats, a costume show, Christmas caroling, and a special appearance by the Taga Riders.

The registration for the Health Walk begins at 3:30pm at the American Memorial Park parking lot with the walk starting at 4pm. The walking course takes participants through Saipan's main tourist district and along the island's scenic beaches south to the Old Japanese Tank and back. The first 100 participants to complete the walk will get a free t-shirt and aid stations will provide water and fruits.

Families will then be able to enjoy the parade, float contest, costume show, and Christmas caroling. The Float Contest assembly begins at the Garapan Fishing Base Complex grounds at 5pm with the parade beginning at 5:30pm and heads north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park. Drivers are advised that portions of Beach Road (from Dollar Days to the American Memorial Park) will be closed on Dec. 19 to make way for the parade from 5:30pm until it ends. School children from various public/private schools will be participating in the parade by marching, show off their costumes, vying for awards based on originality, relevance to theme, performance, choreography, audience participation, costume props, and use of recycled wear.

Family entertainment will continue with the Caroling Contest, which takes place from 6:30pm to 9pm at the American Memorial Park Amphitheatre.

For more information about the event, contact Gordon Marciano at 1.670.287.1195 or Gordon@pdisaipan.com or Frank Tudela at 1.670.664.3200 or ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

DOC's Ada awarded Spirit Award

Commerce Secretary and Insurance Commissioner Michael J. Ada was recently awarded the 2009 Spirit Award by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners at the NAIC winter national meeting held in San Francisco, California, on Dec. 5-8, 2009. The Insurance Commissioners of Guam, American Samoa and U.S. Virgin Islands were also recipients of the same award.

Ada

The Spirit Award, as given by the NAIC, recognizes a jurisdiction's diligent pursuit of effective solvency regulation and dedication to the highest level of protection for consumers during the unprecedented financial crises of 2008-2009.

The Department of Commerce has been a member of the NAIC since 2006. Each member is allotted annual grant funds for use primarily for onsite and online training as well as attendance of national meetings. The national meetings serve as a forum for state regulators to discuss and keep abreast of current issues faced by the insurance industry. The NAIC also offers professional designation scholarships and continuing education credits to full time state insurance department employees.

"I am honored and grateful to have been given such an award. Given our very limited resource for staffing, the NAIC serves as a tremendous resource to our department in terms of insurance regulation. We look forward to maintaining our membership and increasing our participation with the organization" said Ada. ***(PR)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi Mass schedules

The Misa de Gallo/Simbang Gabi/Aguinaldo Mass will run for nine days from Dec. 16 to 24, 2009, until the last Mass in the early morning of Christmas Eve. Here is the schedule for churches:

Mt. Carmel	(Filipino)	4am
	(Chamorro)	6am
■ Kristo Rai	5am	
■ San Antonio	5am	
■ San Francisco de Borja	4am	
■ San Jose, Saipan	5am	
■ San Jose, Tinian	5am	
■ Saint Jude	5 am	
■ Santa Remedios	5am	
■ San Roque	5 am	
■ Santa Soledad	5:30am	
■ San Vicente	5am	

Book launching at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting a book launching for local author Joe Race tomorrow, Dec. 19, 2009, from 10am to 12pm.

Race will be at the library to promote and sell his novels: $15 each or two for $25.

He will also be showcasing *Christmas in the Tropics (Yap)* and *A celebration of life in Micronesia.* For more details of his books, visit www.josephrace.com. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow School to present 'Is it really Christmas?'

Green Meadow School's drama class will present "Is it really Christmas?" this Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The play will start at 5pm and will end at 7pm. Cost of admission is $5 and proceeds will go to pay for the medical cost of Rolando Ada Shirley, as part of the school's PTA fundraising effort. ***(PR)***

Live-fire training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting 20 EBS combat laser operations and live-fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Dec. 21, 2009, from 8am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to **stay away** from this **area** during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

Humanities Council to host book discussion program

The NMI Council for the Humanities invites to public to attend a four-week book discussion program that will explore four classic American novels. The program, which runs from Jan. 18 to Feb. 12, 2010, will be facilitated by Dr. P.F. Kluge, writer-in residence at Kenyon College in Ohio.

Books to be discussed during the program include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Old Man and the Sea*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and *The Things They Carried*. One novel will be considered each week during three 90-minute sessions.

Individuals interested in attending this book discussion program are invited to contact Council staff at 235-4785 to reserve a seat. The program is limited to 100 participants who will be registered on a first come, first served basis. The venue and specific dates and times for sessions will be announced shortly. ***(PR)***

Veterans' briefing set

Tina San Augustine, the Department of Veterans Affairs public contact and outreach specialist for Guam and the CNMI, will be on Rota today, Dec. 18, for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will be at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room from 8am to 4pm. For more information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

SSHS sets report card issuance

Parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students are being informed that the Mid-Progress Report is scheduled to be picked up on Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parental visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Health & Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2009:

Infant & Child CPR – Dec. 19, 2009, Saturday. 8am – 1pm
Adult CPR – Dec. 22, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm
First Aid – Dec. 29, 2009, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

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2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
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'Cash for Appliances' money begins flowing to states, territories

The U.S. Department Of Energy began releasing last week some $300 million promised to states as part of the federal government's Appliance Stimulus Rebate effort, aimed at spurring sagging appliance sales and promoting the use of more energy-efficient appliances.

For the Northern Marians, though, the program is not set to start until March 2010. The CNMI has been allocated $100,000 for the program, similar to the funding amount allocated for American Samoa. Guam will get $166,000, while the U.S. Virgin Islands will get $104,000.

ON THE NET
www.cnmienergy.com

The program's start date for American Samoa is February 2010, Guam's is in April 2010, while the U.S. Virgin Island's will kick off this month.

Similar to the "cash for clunkers" program, the "Cash for Appliances" rebate program is part of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and offers every qualifying state its share of $300 Million to drive replacement sales of new innovative Energy Star qualified appliances.

Each state will pick its own timeframe and design its own promotion, within certain DOE guidelines, and receive funds commensurate with the population of their state or territory.

All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the six territories of Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and America Samoa have indicated they will offer rebate programs. DOE anticipates that rebates will be available to consumers in most parts of the country by early 2010.

Rebates differ state by state, but consumers can look forward to a rebate of $50 to $250 for buying a new more energy-efficient appliance. Unlike the government's recently expired "Cash for Clunkers" deal for cars and trucks however, the appliance rebate program will not require a trade in.

Each state and U.S. territory was allowed to design its own rebate program, and all 56 have submitted plans to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Some of those plans have now been approved.

States and territories have until 2012 to use their funds but most have proposed big Stimulus Promotions for Q1 and or Q2 2009 with many offering programs from the Presidents Holiday (mid-February 2010) through Earth Month (April 2010) timeframes.

Types of Appliances Covered

More than 70 percent of the energy used in American homes is for appliances, refrigeration, space heating, cooling, and water heating. Replacing old appliances and equipment with those that are Energy Star labeled can help save significantly on utility bills. Each state and territory may select its own set of Energy Start qualified products to rebate. DOE has recommended that states select from among the following appliances:

- Boilers
- Central air conditioners
- Clothes washers
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Furnaces (oil and gas)
- Heat pumps (air source and geothermal)
- Refrigerators
- Room air conditioners
- Water heaters

What is the Energy Star program?

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the DOE aimed at helping consumers save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. All appliances and products with the ENERGY STAR label meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and the DOE. ***(PR)***

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Christmas Camp

DECEMBER 21-31, 2009

ECO CAMP IS BACK FOR ITS 10TH YEAR

Start sessions on Monday, Dec. 21st.

Located at the Mariana Resort and Spa, Eco Camp
Activities: Go Karts, Kayaking, Golf, Tennis, Snorkeling, Arts And Crafts, Dance Class, Swimming, Soccer, and more.

Camp facilities include 3 swimming pools, a snorkeling beach, dive pool, golf course, go kart track, arts and crafts room, buffet lunch, baseball and soccer field, and more.

Christmas Camp runs Monday thru Thursday in weekly sessions over the Christmas Break.

Ages are from 4 to 13 • Camp hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

No camp on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

PRICE: Daily $25 • Weekly $100 •2 Week Session: $175
Includes a buffet lunch option

We have a great facility to work with at Mariana Resort and Spa, it's big and safe, the ocean water is clean, and there is a lot of space for kids to safely explore. Our camp features indoor and outdoor activities, and we tailor our activities to the different age groups we serve. We continue to develop Eco Camp, not to make it just the top program on Saipan, but in all of Micronesia

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Tilapia 99¢ /LB $37.99 /CASE
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Turkey Tail LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.

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Chicken Wings $11.99 5 LBS.
Chicken Nuggets $10.99 5 LBS.
Ground Beef $9.99 5 LBS. $16.99 10 LBS.
Beef Rib Finger $2.99 /LB
Ground Pork $2.39 1 LB. $16.99 10 LBS.
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Beef Patties $3.99 3 LBS.
Turkey $1.99 1 LB.
Pork Loin Boneless $2.99 1 LB.
Beef Pot Roast $3.25 1 LB.
Picnic Smoked Ham/ Gusto Smoked Ham $1.99 1 LB.
T-Bone Steak $3.99 /LB.
Beef Top Round Steak $14.99 FAMILY BAG
Crab $7.99 /LB.

Calamary Seawave $1.99 1 LB.
Vega Shrimp $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6
Green Mussels $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1
Onion 59¢ /LB.
Red Onion 99¢ /LB.
Garlic (4 pcs.) 89¢ /PACK
Orange 89¢ /LB.
Potato (Jumbo) 79¢ /LB.
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Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00
Century Tuna (All Flavors) 79¢ EACH

Hormel Chili No Beans $1.99
Ichiban $8.99 /BOX
Korean Bowl Noodle (Nong Shim) $7.99 /CASE
Knorr Carb & Corn Soup 60 g. $1.25
Chicken Noodle 99¢
Sugar 99¢ 1 KG. $1.79 2 KG.
Kikkoman $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.
Kimchee Base $4.99 450G
Lemon Powder $4.99 /CASE
Vlassic Dill Pickles $5.99 WHOLE $6.99 SLICE
Flour / Rice Stick 99¢
Excellent Rice Stick 99¢ 8 OZ.

Chorizzos $25.99 LIMIT 1
Salad Oil $23.99 5 GALLON
AVO Vegetable Oil $7.99 1 GALLON
UFC Banana Catchup 99¢ 1 KG
Anchor Fresh Milk $15.99 /CASE
Real Fresh Milk 1 L $19.99 /CASE
Maseca Flour $3.99 5 LBS.
Hungarian Flour $2.75 5 LBS.
Kraft Real Mayo $9.99 1 GALLON
Maggi Magic Sarap Seasoning 12 Sachets/Pack $1.00 /PACK
Datu Puti Vinegar $2.99 1 GALLON
Silver Swan Soy Sauce $2.99 1 GALLON

Folgers Coffee $9.99 33.9 OZ.
Coffee Mix $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS
Seok Water $4.99 /CASE
Cool Aid $7.99 36 QTZ.
Sunkist Juice $5.99 /CASE
Chamorro Punch $8.99
Zesto Juice (All Flavor) $1.75 10 PCS./BOX
Assam Black Tea $8.99 /CASE
Hite / Max Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $14.99 /CASE
Budweiser/Bud Light Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $24.99 /CASE
Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $12.99 /CASE
Pepsi (All Flavors) WARM ONLY $14.99 /CASE

NON-FOOD

Tide Detergent $3.99 2.8 KG. $6.99 5 KG.
Sunburst 45 OZ. $3.99 1.34 L
Gain Powder LIMIT 2 $15.99 120 LOADS
Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kind) 50 OZ. $4.99 LIMIT 2
Joy Dishwashing $5.99 90 OZ.
Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES $19.99 /CASE
Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT $6.99 LIMIT 1
Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6

Safeguard 90 G 59¢
Bounty Paper Towel $18.99 15 ROLLS
Table Napkin $3.99 400 COUNT
Dawn Dishwashing $7.99 90 OZ.
Charmin Tissue $6.99 24 ROLLS
Toilet Tissue $2.99 10 ROLLS
Diamond Aluminum Foil $6.99 200 SQ. FT.

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99
Pork Belly	$10.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99
Pork Chops	$10.99
Beef Stew	$13.99
Beef Backribs	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$13.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Quarter Leg s	$5.99

Business

House narrowly approves year-end jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats in the House Wednesday muscled through a year-end plan to create jobs, mixing about $50 billion for public works projects with another almost $50 billion for cash-strapped state and local governments.

The unemployed would get continued benefits. But conspicuously absent from the plan were President Barack Obama's recently announced proposals to give Social Security recipients $250 payments, a tax credit for small businesses that create jobs and a program awarding tax credits to people who make their homes more energy efficient.

In a statement, Obama said the House measure offers "productive ideas to respond to this great need" for jobs across the country, while urging lawmakers to do more.

"Some may think standing by and taking no action is the right approach, but for the millions of Americans still out of work, inaction is unacceptable," Obama said.

Not a single Republican voted for the plan, which passed on a 217-212 vote after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., worked the floor for an hour. The measure now goes to the Senate, which won't consider the measure until next year and which generally has a smaller appetite for such deficit-financed economic stimulus measures.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank of America names Brian Moynihan as new CEO

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bank of America's board of directors has chosen consumer banking chief Brian Moynihan to replace Ken Lewis as CEO of the nation's biggest bank on Jan. 1. Their pick of an internal candidate on Wednesday followed a months-long search and unsuccessful attempts to hire a star industry executive for the top job. The negotiations were complicated by pay restrictions imposed by government pay czar Kenneth Feinberg before the bank repaid $45 billion of federal bailout loans needed to prevent its failure over the past year.

Treasury backs out of plans to sell Citi stake

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a striking reversal of its attempts to unwind the government's financial stakes in big banks, the Treasury Department has backed out of plans to sell its 34 percent stake in Citigroup Inc. The move came after investors responded tepidly to a massive stock offer by the New York-based bank. Citi said Wednesday it will sell 5.4 million common shares at a steep discount to raise the cash it needs to repay $20 billion of the $45 billion in government support it received to weather the financial crisis.

Intel hit with more antitrust charges in FTC suit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Federal Trade Commission piled on new antitrust charges against Intel Corp. on Wednesday, seeking to end what it described as a decade of illegal sales tactics that have crippled rivals and kept prices for computer chips artificially high. The FTC's lawsuit contains the most wide-ranging allegations yet against the world's largest chip maker, which is also fighting a record $1.45 billion antitrust fine in Europe and separate cases in South Korea and New York state.

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- Facial Treatment

Package B Reg. $120 now $60
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- Body Massage
- Body Scrub/Feet Callous Cleaning
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- Body Massage
- Body Scrub/Body Wrap
- Facial Treatment
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HOW TO APPLY

Application forms and information on how to apply can be found on Congressman Sablan's website – Sablan.house.gov. Students interested in applying for a nomination may also contact Sablan's office in Washington toll free at (877) 446-3465 or his district office in Saipan at 323-2647/8. Prospective nominees are strongly encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Nation

Single-payer health care plan dies in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The liberals' longtime dream of a government-run health care system for all died Wednesday in the Senate, but Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont vowed it will return when the realization dawns that private insurance companies "are no longer needed."

The proposal's demise came as Senate Democratic leaders and the White House sought agreement with Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., to become the 60th supporter of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul—the number needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

Sanders

Nelson has met three times in the past nine days with Obama. While he is seeking stricter curbs on abortions in the insurance system the bill would establish, he also has raised issues in his home state that are unrelated to the health care legislation, according to an official with close ties to the senator. The official spoke on grounds of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Sanders, an independent and socialist, said his approach is the only one "which eliminates the hundreds of billions of dollars in waste, administrative costs, bureaucracy and profiteering that is engendered by the private insurance companies." His remarks drew handshakes and even a hug or two from Democrats who had filed into the Senate to hear him.

Sanders acknowledged the proposal lacked the votes to pass, and he chose to withdraw it after Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., exercised his prerogative and required Senate clerks to begin reading the 767-page proposal aloud to a nearly empty chamber. After three hours, they were 139 pages into it.

Flight attendant caught wayward pilots unaware

WASHINGTON (AP)—A call from a flight attendant to the pilots of the Northwest Airlines plane that overshot Minneapolis catapulted the cockpit crew from complacency to confusion.

Interviews with the flight crew and other documents released Wednesday by the National Transportation Safety Board indicate the pilots were completely unaware of their predicament until the moment the intercom rang. They were unaware that they had flown their Airbus A320 with 144 passenger more than 100 miles past their destination, that air traffic controllers and their airline's dispatchers had been struggling to reach them for more than an hour, or that the military was at that moment readying fighter jets for an intercept mission.

Timothy Cheney, the captain of Flight 188, said he looked up from his laptop to discover there was no longer any flight information programmed into the Airbus A320's computer. He said his navigation system showed Duluth, Minnesota, off to his left and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, ahead on the right.

ACROSS THE NATION

SC gov again dodges removal; lawmakers OK rebuke

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Lawmakers voted Wednesday to formally rebuke Gov. Mark Sanford, again sparing him from impeachment over secret trips to see his Argentine mistress and his use of state planes. The House Judiciary Committee unanimously agreed to censure the Republican governor for bringing "ridicule, dishonor, disgrace and shame" to the state. The scathing reprimand has no practical effect on Sanford's ability to govern for the 13 months that remain in his term, but legislators insisted they were not giving him a pass. "This resolution is going to tell every citizen of our state that the conduct and behavior of the governor of our state was not suitable and was indeed inappropriate and improper," said Rep. Walt McLeod, D-Little Mountain.

NC woman accused of hiding mother's spring death

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP)—A woman was charged Wednesday with keeping the corpse of her elderly mother in their home for months before the body was discovered in the woman's bed. Amy Blanche Stewart, 47, was charged with concealment of death, which is considered a low-level felony in North Carolina, the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office said. "There is no question it was known to the family and should have been communicated to law enforcement," said New Hanover County District Attorney Benjamin R. David. "This is not tolerated under North Carolina law and it is not tolerated by this law enforcement community."

Blacks urge more efforts to improve census count

WASHINGTON (AP)—Black groups on Wednesday urged the government to improve the count of African-Americans in next year's high-stakes census, saying they won't be satisfied with a tally that has historically overlooked millions in their community. The National Urban League, the NAACP, Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson met with Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to voice their concerns the Census Bureau might not be doing enough to ensure an accurate tally. Roughly 3 million blacks were missed in 2000, while many whites were overcounted.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB10-GOV- 004

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **CENTRAL GARAPAN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA and OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Replace 50 service laterals and 16 water meters, with 65 water meters relocations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, for new 9 fire hydrants and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Install 3,130 linear feet of 8-inch PVC distribution pipe and 2,800 linear feet of 6-inch PVC distribution pipe.
- Abandon in-place of old asbestos cement pipe (ACP).
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving, concrete curbs and gutters.
- Conduct the area topographic and easement surveys.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **December 4, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **December 18, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **December 17, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB10-GOV-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **January 4, 2010.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time January 4, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 4, 2010**, and must be received no later than **January 18, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **January 19, 2010.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **January 5, 2010.**

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Census 2010
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JOB FAIR

Rota & Tinian

Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

Rota	Tinian
Monday, December 14th – 2:00pm – 7:00pm	Monday, December 21st – 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Tuesday, December 15th – 9:00am – 12:00noon	Tuesday, December 22nd – 9:00am – 12:00noon
Rota NMC Campus	Tinian NMC Campus

Testing will be offered approximately every hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.
- Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)
- Have a social security number before being appointed.
- Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.
- Pass a written test of basic skills
- Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)

Applications can be picked up at the OPM office on Tinian and Rota and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair, including a photocopy of a picture ID and high school diploma. If an application was submitted in advance of the Job Fair, Census staff will have a list of all applications submitted and will allow applicants to complete testing during the Job Fair on Rota and Tinian. Copies of an applicant's ID and high school diploma can also be added at the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

Asia

RP volcano rumbles with fresh explosions

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Mayon volcano, which has blown its top nearly 40 times in 400 years, menaced nearby residents with small eruptions of ash and lava Wednesday as Philippine authorities moved more than 30,000 people to shelters in case of a larger eruption.

Trickles of lava rolled down the 8,070-foot (2,460-meter) mountain towering over the Albay Gulf in the central Philippines, while five new ash explosions, one of them reaching 550 yards (500 meters) in the air, shook Mayon's steep slopes, said chief state volcanologist Renato Solidum.

During the day, the summit is shrouded in white clouds of dust and ash, and dark orange lava becomes clearly visible in the nighttime. Residents of Legazpi city on the foothills of the cone-shaped mountain converge in a downtown park at night to watch the spectacle from a safe distance.

"There is the possibility that it can turn into the explosive phase of the eruption," Solidum told The Associated Press. "Right now, we cannot say for sure, but the initial phases of 2000, 2001 and 2006 eruptions are almost the same."

Demand for new states could change India's map

NEW DELHI (AP)—From scores fasting in demand of a new state in India's hilly northeast to a powerful chief minister suggesting her region be split up, the map of the nation is facing an overhaul.

Ethnic minorities and activists in economically deprived regions are seeking states of their own, following the government's surprise decision last week to give in to a hunger strike and create a new state in southern India.

Now, India is confronting serious calls for a grand reorganization of this sprawling, diverse nation of 1.2 billion.

"We are looking at what could be a major crossroads in the political evolution of the Indian system," said Mahesh Rangarajan, a prominent political analyst at Delhi University. "Are 28 states enough for a billion people when 300 million Americans have 50 states?"

China, which India is expected to surpass in 2025 as the world's most populous country, uses centralized, authoritarian rule to maintain order and unity. India's democracy has relied on constant negotiation and compromise to empower its different ethnic groups and bind the diverse country, from the rural hill people who live on the Tibetan border to the business tycoons of Mumbai.

Pakistani court deals US-backed president big blow

ISLAMABAD(AP)—Pakistan's top court struck down an amnesty Wednesday that had protected U.S.-allied President Asif Ali Zardari from corruption charges, setting the stage for political turmoil at a time when America seeks a united front against militants along the Afghan border.

The ruling is a major blow to the desperately unpopular Zardari and could mark the beginning of his downfall, analysts said. While he enjoys immunity from prosecution as president, Zardari's opponents now plan to challenge his eligibility to hold the post.

A political crisis could complicate U.S. efforts to encourage Pakistan to step up military operations against al-Qaida-linked extremists. Effective action against those militant groups is seen by the U.S. as a linchpin of its war strategy.

Zardari

A weakened Zardari would face a huge challenge in responding to U.S. pressure for a broad crackdown. Elements of the armed forces and much of the Pakistani public oppose a major offensive against Afghan militants who use Pakistan as a base. They instead blame Washington for stirring up turmoil in this country.

Minutes after the ruling, the opposition party called on Zardari to resign on moral grounds. His aides scoffed at the suggestion. Senior Cabinet minister Nabeel Gabol said Zardari had called a meeting of his ruling Pakistan People's Party for Saturday to discuss the situation.

The court's decision also left thousands of others who had been shielded by the amnesty vulnerable to reopened corruption and other criminal cases. Interior Minister Rehman Malik, the country's top civilian security officer, and at least two other ministers loyal to Zardari are among those now at risk of prosecution.

The amnesty "seems to be against the national interest," and "violates various provisions of the Constitution," Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry said in announcing the decision of the 17-member bench.

The amnesty was part of a U.S.-brokered deal with former military ruler Pervez Musharraf that paved the way for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to return home from self-exile and participate in politics without facing charges her party says were politically motivated.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US to expand eyes in the sky over Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military is adding more drones and expanding its video surveillance in the skies over Afghanistan to meet the needs of American forces as 30,000 more troops head into the war zone, a top Air Force general said Wednesday. The bolstered eyes in the sky will come from a mix of manned and unmanned aircraft and added technology that allows each MQ-9 Reaper drone to collect 10 video transmissions and beam them back to 10 different users on the ground, Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, told reporters.

Japan coalition leader wants US base off Okinawa

NAHA, Japan (AP)—The leader of one of Japan's ruling coalition parties said Wednesday she wants a U.S. Marine base moved off the southern island of Okinawa, deepening a dispute with Washington over the future of the airfield. Mizuho Fukushima, head of the left-leaning Social Democratic Party, said that as a member of the Cabinet she supports the closure and removal of the base. "I am optimistic something can be done to move the base off Okinawa or out of the country," she said after a meeting with Okinawa's governor, Hirokazu Nakaima, in the local capital of Naha.

Tribunal charges 2 Khmer Rouge with genocide

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The U.N.-assisted tribunal trying former leaders of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge has charged two defendants with genocide for the first time. Tribunal spokesman Lars Olsen said Wednesday the co-investigating judges issued the charges this week against the group's top ideologist, Nuon Chea, and former foreign minister, Ieng Sary. The tribunal is seeking justice for an estimated 1.7 million people who died from execution, overwork, disease and malnutrition as a result of the ultra-communist group's policies during its 1975-79 rule.

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World

UN climate negotiators look to US for fresh ideas

COPENHAGEN (AP)—U.N. climate negotiators looked Wednesday to the United States to bring fresh ideas—perhaps in the form of extra billions of dollars—to try to salvage a bare-bones political agreement by the end of the week on controlling global warming.

The U.S. must find ways of meeting demands by a suspicious world on reducing greenhouse gas emissions without exceeding what Congress will allow. It must also find the cash in a tight budget.

"The United States is back and President Barack Obama is coming to Copenhagen to put America on the right side of history," said Sen. John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was on her way to Copenhagen as negotiations over a draft agreement effectively came to a halt after an all-night session that broke up at dawn Wednesday with a confused text leaving most issues to be decided by ministers or heads of government. Obama is scheduled to arrive Friday.

Left unresolved are the questions of emissions targets for industrial countries, billions of dollars a year in funding for poor countries to contend with climate change, and verifying the actions of emerging powers like China and India to ensure that promises to reduce emissions are kept.

Denmark, presiding at the conference, said it has drawn up a text that it would present when ministers resume talks, but delegates were undecided on the format to hold the negotiations, whether in a full plenary or in small groups.

Formal discussions were suspended before resuming at 10 p.m. local time, met briefly, then adjourned for the night.

"I still believe it's possible to reach a real success," said the U.N.'s top climate official, Yvo de Boer. "The next 24 hours are absolutely crucial and need to be used productively."

British Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband told the BBC that the climate change talks were "certainly on a knife edge and in real grave danger. ... It now needs leaders, unfortunately, to come in and move this process forward."

Brazil toddler has 50 sewing needles inside body

SAO PAULO (AP)—A 2-year-old boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body, apparently stuck there one by one, a doctor treating him said Wednesday. Brazilian media said the boy's ex-stepfather was detained.

Dr. Luiz Cesar Soltoski told The Associated Press that surgeons hope to remove most of the needles—some as long as 2 inches (5 centimeters)—but those in the lungs will have to wait until the child's breathing improves.

Some needles cannot be removed as they are too close to vital organs or even inside organs, Soltoski said.

The boy's mother, a maid, took him to a hospital in the small northeastern city of Ibotirama last Thursday, saying he was complaining of pain. Three days later, after X-rays revealed many of the needles, doctors moved him to a larger hospital in the nearby city of Barreiras.

AP

In this frame taken from a TV Globo video, a person points at a X-ray of a 2-year-old boy showing needles inside his body in a hospital in Ibotirama, northern Brazil, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009.

The mother told police she didn't know how the needles got inside her son, whose name was not released because of his age. But police Wednesday night detained an ex-stepfather of the boy who confessed, according to Brazil's Globo TV. It reported the man said he inserted the needles with the help of two women who were not identified.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran tests missile, stoking tensions with the West

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran on Wednesday test fired an upgraded version of an advanced missile capable of hitting Israel and parts of Europe, an apparent show of strength aimed at discouraging attacks on its nuclear facilities. The test of the medium-range Sajjil-2 fueled calls for tougher sanctions against Tehran, which has resisted U.N. demands that it rein in its nuclear ambitions. Iran touted the launch as a success proving it can deter any U.S. or Israeli military strike against its nuclear facilities. "This is a matter of serious concern to the international community and it does make the case for us moving further on sanctions. We will treat this with the seriousness it deserves," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said after talks with U.N. chief Ban Ki-Moon in Copenhagen.

Navy official: alleged Mexican cartel chief killed

MEXICO CITY (AP)—One of the most wanted figures in the drug war was killed in a shootout with the Mexican navy Wednesday, an official said. Arturo Beltran Leyva and three members of his drug cartel died in the gunbattle in a gated, upscale apartment complex in Cuernavaca, just south of Mexico City. A fifth suspect committed suicide during the shootout, said the official, who under navy rules could not give his name. One sailor was injured, he said. Beltran Levya, known as the "boss of bosses," was one of four brothers who split from the Sinaloa cartel several years ago and aligned themselves with Los Zetas, a group of former soldiers hired by the Gulf Cartel as hit men.

Berlusconi has trouble eating, stays in hospital

ROME (AP)—Premier Silvio Berlusconi is in pain and having trouble eating and will stay in the hospital at least until Thursday recovering from an attack by a mentally ill man that broke his nose and two teeth, doctors said. Doctors said they had ordered Berlusconi, 73, to cancel or reduce public appearances at least for the next two weeks, meaning he will skip climate talks in Copenhagen. They had previously said he would be released Wednesday. Berlusconi's personal doctor said, however, that he was not worried that the prime minister's overall health was in danger from the injuries he suffered when a souvenir metal statuette of Milan's cathedral was hurled into his face at close range at a rally in the city by a man with a history of psychological problems.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its Regular meeting Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings:
    1. September 22, 2009
    2. October 15, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Report of the Chairman
    1. ROC No. 10-003
  B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
    1. ROA No. 10-003
      a) Status Updates
  C. Report of the Comptroller
    1. Financials
      a) NMI Retirement Fund
      b) GHLITF
      c) WCC
    2. Drawdown Requests
    3. CGECU Status Update
  D. Reports of the Committees
    1. Finance & Investment Committee
    2. Operations & Personnel Committee
    3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
    4. GH&L and WCC Committee
  E. Report of the Investment Director
    1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
    2. Report of the Housing Loan Program
  F. Communications
    1. Internal Auditor Reports
  G. Other Matters
IV. LEGAL MATTERS
  A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
    1. Report of the Board Counsel
      a) Lawsuit
        i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
      b) Ratification of Co-Counsel
      c) Other Legal Matters
    2. Report of the In-House Counsel
      a) Update on Administrative Appeals
    3. Report of the Hearing Officer
V. OLD BUSINESS
  A. BR 08-001 Matters
    1. Pension Application Matters
    2. P.L. 15-98 / Refunds
    3. Disability Applicants
  B. Update on Life Insurance RFP
  C. Fund Legal Counsel Position Update
  D. MHL – Bank Pacific
  E. Life Insurance
    1. NetCare
VI. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Request for Exemption – D.Q. Maratita
  B. Civil Action No. 09-0021
  C. Civil Action No. 00-0409
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
  A. Announcements
  B. Next Meeting
  C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-039

"Development of a Defensive Driving Training Program for the Public School System"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **"Development of a Defensive Driving Training Program which will include the Training of 34 Bus Drivers, Development of a Curriculum, and the Identification and Training of at Least 5 Trainers".** The Scope of Work and Proposal Package is available beginning December 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI or by E-mail request to delacruzr@pss.cnmi.mp.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting for Interested Proposers on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. in the 3rd Floor Conference room in the NMI Retirement Fund Building. Arrangements can be made to accommodate off-island Proposers via Video Conferencing participation. Questions may be faxed to Peter Le'au, Associate Commissioner for Administration at 670.664.3791 or e-mailed to leaupi@gmail.com **no later than January 11, 2009.**

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-039" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office **no later than January 15, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Saipan Time (Chamorro Standard Time)** E-mail submission may be directed to delacruzr@pss.cnmi.mp. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Si Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Si Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Teen runs up dad's cell bill to nearly $22,000

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP)—A 13-year-old teen was probably in hot water with his father after running up a cell phone bill of nearly $22,000. Ted Estarija said he was expecting his bill to be higher this month after adding his son to his plan, but wasn't expecting a bill of $21,917 in data usage charges. The Hayward man said his Verizon Wireless bill soared after his son apparently downloaded about 1.4 million kilobytes of data last month. His plan didn't cover data usage, so he was charged by the megabyte. Estarija said after the first media reports, Verizon said they would credit his account for the entire amount. He has also suspended his son's account. A spokeswoman for Verizon said the company investigates cases with exceptionally large bills.

Book 99 years overdue returned to Mass. library

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP)—The book returned to the New Bedford Public Library in Massachusetts this week wasn't overdue by a week, a month or even a year. It was nearly a century overdue, and the fine came to $361.35. "Facts I Ought to Know about the Government of My Country" was supposed to have been returned by May 10, 1910. Stanley Dudek told the Standard Times newspaper he came across the book while going through things that had belonged to his mother, who died about 10 years ago. He decided that returning the book to the city was the right thing to do. The overdue book fine was a penny a day in 1910. But Dudek wasn't asked to pay it. The library plans to display the book in its special collection.

Shirtless man, woman in handcuffs belt rob bank

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Authorities in South Florida are searching for a man who held up a Fort Lauderdale bank shirtless then fled with a woman who sported a belt made of handcuffs. According to a news release from the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, the man demanded money from a teller at a Bank of America branch on Friday afternoon and implied he had a weapon. The teller gave the man an unspecified amount of cash, and he then fled on foot with the woman. The man was wearing blue jeans, while the woman wore a blue hat, black shirt and jeans.

Home intruder spooked by woman's medical call

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man who broke into an 89-year-old woman's Knoxville home and awakened her was scared off when a monitoring company answered her medical alert call. The Knoxville News Sentinel reported the woman told police she was awakened before dawn Tuesday by a loud noise. She said a man stood over her bed, shaking her by the arms and asking if she were all right. The woman activated a medical alert device on her neck and the voice of an operator responded over the intercom. She told police the intruder ripped the device off her, causing a slight abrasion and a cut finger, but he fled taking nothing.

Police: Man shoots suspected prowler with arrow

KELSO, Wash. (AP)—Kelso, Wash., police said a man used his compound bow to interrupt an apparent break-in at a nearby vacant home, wounding a fleeing man in the buttocks. Police said the man grabbed his hunting bow late Sunday night and chased a suspected prowler for more than three blocks. When the fleeing man refused to stop, the bowhunter shot him with a broadhead arrow. A 32-year-old Longview man later sought treatment at St. John Medical Center for an arrow wound to the left buttock. Doctors removed the arrow tip and the man was listed in satisfactory condition Monday. Kelso Police Capt. Vern Thompson said there were no immediate arrests and the investigation continues. He said charges against both men are possible.

Money robbed from western Pa. bank mailed back

WEST NEWTON, Pa. (AP)—Someone mailed an envelope filled with money to a western Pennsylvania bank that was robbed earlier this month, and the FBI suspects it was either the repentant robber or an acquaintance of his. Special Agent Jeff Killeen says the returned money doesn't cancel out the crime that was committed Dec. 9 at the PNC Bank in West Newton, a tiny borough about 20 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The FBI won't say how much the robber took, but say the money in the envelope was about 80 percent of the amount stolen. It was separated into stacks of $5s, $10s, $20s and $100s. The FBI announced the mailing on Tuesday and says it is checking the package for fingerprints and other clues. They believe the robber is local because he was wearing a yellow Pittsburgh Steelers T-shirt.

Pair accused of faking death from bad oysters

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—A couple were charged in federal court in Sioux Falls with faking the husband's death to collect on life insurance. A woman, 39, and her 45-year-old husband pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. The wife was free on bond while the husband was being held without bond. Authorities said the woman claimed that her husband had died after eating bad oysters during a family vacation in Malaysia in 2003. She eventually settled the insurance case with two insurance companies for $2 million. FBI agents informed Sioux Falls-based Midland National Life about a year ago that husband walked into the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, and asked to renew his passport. The man was arrested in Guam last month.

'Santa' stumbles out of vehicle, seeks reindeer

SPARTA, Wis. (AP)—Santa Claus is in trouble with the law in one western Wisconsin city. Police in Sparta said they cited a man dressed as Santa after witnesses told officers he stumbled out of a vehicle, approached several children playing in a yard, hugged them and demanded to know the whereabouts of his reindeer. The man was cited for open intoxicants. The driver of the car in which he was riding was arrested for drunken driving.

Boy Scout, 11, returns purse with nearly $2,000

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—An 11-year-old North Carolina boy has found and returned a stolen purse with nearly $2,000 inside. The News & Record of Greensboro reported Wednesday that Edward Myers and his siblings were helping neighbors plant trees in a Greensboro park when he spotted a purse on the creek bank. The Boy Scout and his mother called the police, and the purse's owner showed up to collect. The owner told police her car was broken into on Thanksgiving. Police said the thief took $30 out of the main billfold but missed $1,900 in another compartment before flinging the purse into the creek. The owner rewarded Edward with one of the $100 bills. He gave $40 of it to his mother and spent the other $60 on a Carolina Panthers jersey.

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Science & Technology

Callers of all incomes ditching landlines for cell

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of households with cell phones but no landlines continues to grow, but the recession doesn't seem to be forcing poor cellular users to abandon their traditional wired phones any faster than higher-income people are.

The finding, from data compiled by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suggests that when it comes to telephone habits, peoples' decisions are affected more by age and where they live than by their economic situations.

The latest CDC study, released Wednesday, is consistent with its past reports: Overall, the poor remain likelier than higher earners to live in households that only have cell phones, and the proportion of wireless-only homes at all income levels continues to grow.

Yet surprisingly, the rate of growth of cell-only homes is consistent across all income lines despite the economy's recent swoon, the report shows. Whether households are poor, near poor or not poor, the proportion with only cells has about doubled between the first half of 2006 and the first half of 2009, according to the most recent statistics available.

"I think it indicates that economic considerations are not the primary considerations when deciding to drop a landline and become wireless only," said Stephen Blumberg, a senior scientist at the CDC and an author of the report. "We see where people live, who they live with and how old they are are stronger predictors than income."

Overall, 23 percent of U.S. homes have only cell phones, up from 11 percent in 2006.

Among the poor, the proportion of wireless-only households has grown from 16 percent in 2006 to 33 percent this year. During that same period, the number of cell-only homes has grown from 14 percent to 27 percent among the near poor and from 9 percent to 19 percent among those who are not poor.

The study considered people to be poor if they earned below the federal poverty threshold, which is about $11,000 for a person living alone and $22,000 for a family of four. They were labeled near poor if their income was between that and twice those levels, and not poor if their household earned more than twice the poverty levels.

Most homes—six in 10—had both cell and landline phones in the first half of this year. Only about one in six had landlines without wireless phones, and one in 50 had no phones at all.

The number of households effectively reachable only by cell has also continued to rise, hitting 37 percent this year. That includes those who only have cells and those who also have a landline but seldom take calls on it, often because it is plugged into a computer.

As past studies have shown, age matters. More than a third of adults age 18 to 34 live in cell-only homes, including 46 percent for those age 25 to 29. But the number falls off sharply: Of those age 35 to 44, just 22 percent are from wireless-only households.

Web site runs elaborate Secret Santa gift exchange

SEATTLE (AP)—'Tis the season for heart-melting tales of spontaneous good will among strangers, which, like the rest of our relationships, has gotten a lot more convenient since the advent of the Internet.

A few weeks ago, a seasonal discussion began on Reddit, where people post links and vote to move stories higher or lower in the site's rankings.

Anyone interested in a Secret Santa gift exchange? Ho Ho YES, came the answer.

More than 4,500 Reddit members in 54 countries signed up. They were given a Reddit user name and mailing address, and sometimes a note from the recipient-to-be about likes and dislikes.

As gifts arrived and recipients posted photos and thank-you notes online, it became clear that Reddit has become, to these folks at least, much more than just a news site.

Erik Martin, a community manager at Reddit, said many Secret Santas appeared to have pored over the history of links and comments their recipient had posted on the site for clues that would yield the perfect gift idea. Some took it a step further and did what Martin calls "a little friendly Internet stalking," looking up addresses to get recipients' real names and tracking down their friends on Facebook.

Judging by notes and photos posted by recipients, Secret Santas did good. Many gift packages included items reflecting popular Internet topics such as bacon, narwhals and zombies. Many, many others involved handmade replicas of Reddit's mascot—a little alien guy—rendered in blown glass, clay, metal, beadwork, felt, paint on canvas, carved soap, yarn and more.

The suggested amount to spend was $15, but some Santas went far beyond that. One Santa kicked off a fund drive on Reddit so that the recipient's girlfriend could set aside emergency veterinary care money for her new service dog.

Another sent a volume of the teen-vampire series "Twilight," which disappointed the recipient until he opened it up and discovered two movies and an iPhone—yes, a working iPhone—tucked into cut-out sections of the book.

Yet another anonymously sent $1,500 in $100 bills, with a note that said, "Merry Christmas, hopefully this will help with books next semester ;)"

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: I'm replacing my old PC with a new Windows 7 model but don't want to replace my Office 97 applications with a new package that does essentially the same work.

A: I don't agree that Office 97 is quite the same thing as the current Office 2007, but let's set that aside: How can you tell if an older program will run in Windows 7? The answer may not be simple.

You should begin by visiting microsoft.com/windows/compatibility. There, you can search for a product in Microsoft's Windows 7 compatibility database or download Microsoft's free Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor, which you can run on the old computer to get a report on your software's readiness for Microsoft's new operating system.

That page's database lists Office 2007 and 2003 as "Compatible." But it files the older Office 2000 and Office 97 releases under an "Action recommended" category—that action being "Get paid upgrade," though no details are offered about what's wrong with those editions—and doesn't seem to cover Office XP at all.

Stranger yet, an older tech-support note says Office 2000 and XP, as well as 2003 and 2007, are "all supported on Windows Vista." Asked to clarify the status of those older releases in Vista's successor, a Microsoft spokesman wrote that they "may work but have not been tested" and added that "we are not hearing about any issues from customers."

Postings on Microsoft's tech-support forum suggest that Office 2000 can work in Win 7 with some tweaking, while Office 97 can be trickier.

If you're set against paying for a new copy of Office, also consider the free, open-source OpenOffice (openoffice.org) or Google's free, Web-hosted Google Documents (docs.google.com).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NMHC

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY JANUARY 11, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center
P.O. Box 501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664 4550 • Fax: (670) 664 4560

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the Northern Marianas Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System, also known as the "Supervisory Council" of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency will hold an Awards Meeting **on Tuesday, December 22, from 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M., at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency, Saipan**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES
- Review and Adoption of Minutes from Supervisory Council meeting on November 13, 2009.

V. NEW BUSINESS
1. Review and approval of Youth Advisory Council recommendations for FY 2009 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds.
   a. Title II Formula Grant
   b. Title V Prevention Grant
   c. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
   d. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Grant
2. Review and award of the Office on Victims of Crime FY 2009 Victims of Crime Act funds applications.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- Next Supervisory Council Meeting

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Office on Victims of Crime.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2010 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting Friday December 18, 2009 Giovanni's, Hyatt 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Items
   A. Roll Call
   B. Review & adoption of Agenda
   C. Review & adoption of 5/21/09 & 9/25/09 Minutes

II. Reports
   A. OVR Director
   B. SRC Chairman

III. Old Business
   A. Policy items update

IV. New Business
   A. Election of Officers
   B. Review and approval of 2010 SRC Resource Plan

V. Consumer Forum

VI. Next Meeting and Announcements:

VII. Adjournment

/s/ SRC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations are asked to contact Magin Iginoef at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY), four days in advance for necessary accomodations.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Island Snapshots

ANAHEIM SOJOURN

Former Aqua Resort Club and Hyatt Regency Saipan food and beverage official Dory Gabutero, right, poses with friends Ferdie Santos, left, and his wife Lanie, third from left, and two other friends during a visit to Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Lanie Santos also used to call Saipan home, having worked as an accountant at JET Holings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC

STUDENT SUCCESS

Students at the Northern Marianas College fill out questionnaires at the "Know Your Personality" Student Success Series workshop. The aim of the workshop was to teach students about different kinds of personalities and how to better understand their own unique personalities. The Student Success Series workshops are offered by the NMC Counseling Programs and Services Office each semester to address the students' needs and issues, such as managing stress and adjusting to college life.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 3rd birthday to Giovonnielyn R. Camacho, who is celebrating her very special day with family and loved ones. May you have many more wonderful birthdays to come! God bless and we love you! Greetings coming out from Mommy, Daddy and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy Christening to Janvir M. Castaneda, who will be introduced to the Christian faith on Dec. 19. Also, advanced happy birthday greetings to JR Montano, who will celebrate his birthday on that same day. Greetings come from Mary Jane Montano and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW CHRISTIAN

Happy Christening to Christopher Ian Cruz, Jr. of San Jose Village, Tinian on Dec. 17, 2009. In picture are mom Christine Cruz, dad Christopher Ian Cruz Sr. and the celebrant.

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
Join us this SATURDAY morning, December 19, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – 13 Fishermen
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Tétoto Beach

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For Friday, December 18th through Tuesday, December 22nd
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

Avatar

Friday & Saturday	12:15	3:30	6:45	10:00
Sunday	12:15	3:30	6:45	
Mon thru Thurs		3:30	6:45	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A paraplegic ex-marine war veteran is unwillingly sent to establish a human settlement on the distant planet of Pandora, only to find himself battling humankind alongside the planet's indigenous Na'vi race in this ambitious, digital 3-D sci-fi epic from Academy Award-winning Titanic director James Cameron. The film, which marks Cameron's first dramatic feature since 1997's Titanic, will be shot on the proprietary FUSION digital 3-D cameras developed by Cameron in collaboration with Vince Pace, and will offer a groundbreaking mix of live-action dramatic performances and computer-generated effects.

Did You Hear About The Morgans?

Friday & Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A well-off couple (Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant) in N.Y.C. get a taste of small-town life after they witness a murder and are relocated by the Witness Protection Program to Wyoming in this Columbia Pictures romantic comedy from Two Weeks Notice's writer/director Marc Lawrence.

The Princess And The Frog

Friday & Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Anika Noni Rose, John Goodman
Comedy, Family • Rated G

Synopsis
After being summoned back to the Mouse House by Pixar founder John Lasseter in 2006, Alladin and Treasure Planet directors Ron Clements and John Musker join forces once again for this traditionally animated 2-D fantasy for the entire family, set in New Orleans. Former Dreamgirl Anika Noni Rose will voice the lead character Tiana, Disney's first African-American heroine in their long heritage of fairy tale animated features. Also in the voice cast is Keith David, lending his baritone chords to the film's villain, Dr. Facilier.

Ninja Assassin

Friday & Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R

2012

Friday & Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	10:10
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Twilight Saga: New Moon

Friday & Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side

Friday & Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't ask me

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Holiday gatherings allowed me to see my nieces and nephews, a few of whom are just hitting college age and who are consequently puzzling out career goals and such. Since I never bought a ticket on the Blabbermouth Express, I have never inflicted unsolicited wisdom on those kids, and even when it comes to the solicited stuff I just say, in so many polite words, "go ask your parents."

My reticence is habitual and long-standing, because facts and opinions can start hiding behind each other, and since good data doesn't always create reliable abstractions. So, while I can tell somebody what my work experiences were like, there's no guarantee, or even a high probability, that someone else's experiences will be the same as mine were. People are different, circumstances are different, trends are different, and the ultimate boss of the universe, randomness, will steer your ship of fate with sneering disregard for your navigation plan.

Furthermore, my nieces and nephews who are at "making decisions age" are sensible kids with a lot of self-discipline. They're already aiming to do what I would advise them to do anyway, were I to open up my yapper: Get the best and most technically-based education and training possible, and don't get derailed by distractions. The world largely belongs to the technical specialists and experts. These kids know that. They already know that in just a few years, the roads available to them will be defined by one very thin sheet of paper with their credentials listed on it. So anything I would have to say is superfluous, and I'm happy to keep quiet.

But when they graduate from college, if I think of it I'll give them what I gave my little brother when he graduated: A copy of Robert Ringer's *Winning Through Intimidation*, a useful guide to how the real world works and how you can claw your way through the jungle without getting eaten by the predators. The book was a hit in the 70's, despite the title, which makes the book sound obnoxious (it's not).

Anyway, anyone younger than graduation age won't appreciate the book. Anyone much older will smack themselves for not having read it earlier (I know I did). So, graduation time is just about right.

In fact, while I'm thinking of Mr. Ringer and the advice gig, I want to share his introduction to another book of his, *Looking out for #1*. Says Ringer: "There are no ulterior motives involved. I'm not out to convert you to a cause, to enlist your aid in destroying an 'evil,' or to gain your support for or against anything." Sounds good to me, since I'm not a crusader, either.

I've just noted that three of my favorite Robert Ringer books were bought at National Book Store in Manila. Each was 145.5 pesos at the time. Those were to replace the ones I had left behind in the states.

If you think Ringer's 1970s run is old-school, then consider another source of good advice, *The Art of Worldly Wisdom*. This was published by the Jesuit scholar Baltasar Gracian in 1647. The last time I checked it was still in print. If I could summarize the book, it would be: Keep your mouth shut, don't be an irritant to people, don't be a busybody, don't be a show off, mind your own business, and don't upstage your boss. The book is an easy read because it's a collection of pithy aphorisms, making it great for traveling when your (well, mine, anyway) attention span is flighty but you want something to read anyway.

■ ■ ■

As a follow up to last week's column, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner did take flight two days ago. On a semi-related note, their biggest airliner yet, the 747-8, should take wing in a few weeks; this is a stretched version of the 747, which is certainly well-known in Saipan.

And, since I'm doing a follow up, I might as well do a heads up, too, and mention that there is some slightly good economic news for Saipan's entrepreneurs, which I'll probably kick off the New Year with in my Jan. 1. column.

A loan to build a home with

By EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Special to the Tribune

Efrain F. Camacho is the president for Citizens for Change of Article XII.

The Wednesday edition of the *Saipan Tribune* on page 3 says "NMHC: Lack of funding a barrier to affordable housing." The article mentioned that "The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. cited the lack of funding as a major barrier to affordable housing in the Commonwealth, based on the annual performance and evaluation report it will submit to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. " The article continues, "Another barrier is Article 12, which restricts landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Mariana descent…" The article went on to say that "Article 12 is also considered a barrier to affordable housing because this law restricts fee simple ownership to CNMI descendants and discourages speculative housing finance and construction, according to NMHC."

We, the Citizens for a Change to Article XII, have brought forth several points about Article XII that are clearly detrimental to the welfare of the CNMI. Unlike anywhere else in the USA, fee simple ownership of land is limited to CNMI descendants. All others, including financing institutions, are subject to limited ownership of 55 years.

It is common anywhere in the USA (including Guam) to use land as collateral in securing a loan, most commonly for the construction of a house on that same land that is used for collateral. So that the monthly payments on the loan are affordable, the payments are spread out over many years, some over 20 and 30 years, thus a 20- or 30-year mortgage.

However, Article XII limits ownership of land to 55 years for anyone not of NMD descent, including lending institutions. Would you lend out your money on a transaction that has a limited time life? How would you feel if the person or family you lend out your money found them unable to pay you the agreed monthly payment on the 20th year? Remember, since you are not a CNMI descent, you only have a 55-year ownership of the land. Can you sell the loan knowing that you only have 30 years remaining?

Perhaps you can. However, you would be at a tremendous disadvantage and would most likely sell at a loss since you only have 30 years remaining. This risk is too much to take and thus affordable housing in the CNMI will never be available.

The alternative is to have rich parents or have at least $250,000 in your savings that you could use to build your house without affecting your daily expenses. We all know that many of us do not have such cash.

However, many of us can indeed afford a monthly payment on a loan for a house if it were not for Article XII. The reality is that so long as Article XII is in place, young families will find it hard and perhaps impossible to be owners of a house.

I know of several young couples who are still sharing a house with their parents as they simply do not have the cash to build a house. Yet, their income is such that they can afford a loan with reasonable interest rates if it was available like in Guam and elsewhere in the USA. A loan to build the house.

Fighting a pre-existing condition: Greed

By STEVE LOPEZ
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Growing old, particularly in this economy, is not for sissies. Just ask Bob and Roselee Packham of Santa Monica, Calif.

Bob, 63, recently lost his job with a company that does audiovisual work at conferences and meetings. That left them with the small salary Roselee, also 63, earns in a part-time position at their synagogue. Bob continues his search for work.

Light a candle for them and others like them, if you're so inclined.

Not that the Packhams are broke, or anywhere near the edge of the cliff. That's what's so scary about this recession. As usual, the poorest among us are taking the biggest hit, but this one is hammering the solidly middle class as well.

In the case of the Packhams, they're dipping into the nest egg they built for retirement to pay the mortgage on their town house, and what's more, they are trapped in our nation's enduring, made-in-America hell of medical insurance lunacy.

You know the hell I'm talking about -- the one in which you find your blurred vision further clouded by the language of COBRA, which will cost one or more limbs but might keep you covered until you find your next job, where of course you'll be denied health care insurance because you had asthma in eighth grade.

What, you've got a minor case of Crohn's disease, and you expect our company to insure you?

That's what Roselee ran into with the AARP insurance program.

Hey, wait a minute. Wasn't that the American Association of Retired Persons? If anybody would understand the health insurance needs of people in the September of their lives, wouldn't it be the AARP?

"I had breast cancer," said Roselee, but that wasn't the hang-up. It was the Crohn's, despite the fact that she has a mild, effectively managed case of the inflammatory disease of the intestines.

So when Bob lost his job in October, they signed up for COBRA, the program that temporarily allows continued group coverage for people who lose their jobs. But the premiums are punishing and the coverage minimal, so they're watching closely and with rising blood pressure as the health care reform debate plays out in Washington, D.C.

Before I went to visit the Packhams, I got a letter from Bob that laid out his beef and his call for Congress to "make health care more reasonable for both patients and the medical industry and less of a gold mine for (the) medical insurance industry."

Bob wrote:

"During 2009, my medical insurance company will pocket approximately $975 a month from me and my wife," as well as from his former employer, which bills a temporary federal program for two-thirds of that $975 COBRA payment for Bob and Roselee's extended coverage.

"That's $11,700 a year for a plan with a $9,800 deductible. As December begins, I have not yet hit the deductible," wrote Bob. He and his wife have been pretty healthy, but they're still paying out co-pays and prescription costs, in addition to the COBRA payments. So for the year, Bob and Roselee's medical coverage will have cost $20,000, and their insurance company will have paid "exactly $00.00 in benefits."

The $20,000, Bob said, "is more than I will pay for my mortgage, more than I paid last year in federal and state income taxes, more than groceries, auto insurance, religious dues. In fact, it is the most expensive item in my budget."

Bear with him for a moment, because Bob's got just a bit more to unload.

"I understand that for 2010, the insurance company is going to increase the premium to more than $1,100 per month. For that kind of money, I could lease two Cadillacs and have money left over for the gas."

Yes, he's a little worked up, and understandably so.

The Packhams, like so many others who've been knocked around by this economy, never imagined they'd be hanging by their fingernails to the bottom rungs of the middle class. Fortunately they're not carrying much debt, and Bob thinks the economy will pick up in January and he'll find work.

Or so he says.

It's called denial, said Roselee, and Bob had to agree.

"I'm scared," Roselee admitted at her kitchen table, wondering what they'll have to give up and how they'll get by if things don't turn around soon.

They're scared -- and angry too -- at how crippling health care costs can be, even if you're not sick. And yet the bickering bozos with the best health insurance in the land haven't been able to rise above special interests and partisan politics and deliver a reform package that doesn't cripple American families.

The Packhams count themselves lucky their two adult children are off the payroll, and Roselee's dad lives with them, kicking $500 a month into the family kitty. Roselee started collecting Social Security a bit on the early side, and even if Bob keeps striking out on the job market, the Packhams think they can scrape by until they turn 65 and switch to Medicare.

Last week, their spirits lifted when lawmakers floated proposals to lower the Medicare eligibility age to 55 in some cases and to replace the dead-on-arrival public option with a nonprofit option.

"My doctor said that back in the day when medical insurance was more nonprofit-based, more of the money went to patient care," said Bob.

As for changing the Medicare eligibility age to 55, Bob said it sounds good. But he wants more details on the cost, and he fears that even if it adds up, he may be close to 65 before the change kicks in.

Any system, though, that puts more money into patient care and less into corporate profit will make Bob healthier and happier.

"I believe that most of the money I have paid to the medical insurance company is profit," he wrote me in his e-mail, a small masterpiece of moral indignation.

"I believe that some of that profit is used to lobby our Congress and to stir up the public with TV advertising, radio blowhards and political action in order to perpetuate this outrageous financial scheme which so enriches them."

I think I've got a solution to Bob's unemployment problem:

Bob for Congress.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

BOY, IF IT WASN'T SO CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS, I'D POUND YOU GOOD!
YEAH, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
OH NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT TEMPTING ME! I WANT EVERY ITEM ON MY CHRISTMAS LIST, SO I'M BEING GOOD, NO MATTER WHAT THE PROVOCATION!
HERE COMES SUSIE DERKINS.
REALLY? QUICK, HELP ME FIND A PINE CONE I CAN THROW AT..
..NO! I'M BEING GOOD! GOOD! GOOD!
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT TILL CHRISTMAS. GIVE UP NOW AND ENJOY YOURSELF.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NEED A STAMP FOR YOUR LETTER TO SANTA?
NOPE
JIM DAVIS 12-18
www.garfield.com Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
I ALREADY E-MAILED HIM MY LIST
THE SERVER CRASHED, SIR!
GEE, LET ME GUESS
NICE
SANTA
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. I THINK I PULLED IT OFF.
YOU'RE FINALLY DONE WITH KATY'S "HOPE" COSTUME?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WOW! HONESTLY... I'VE NEVER HAD A DRESS INSPIRE SUCH A SINCERE FEELING OF HOPE IN ME.
THAT'S GREAT! WHAT IS IT SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THIS DRESS THAT INSPIRES HOPE?
MY HOPE THAT YOU WON'T EVER ASK ME MY OPINION ABOUT PAGEANT DRESSES, AGAIN.
www.gocomics.com
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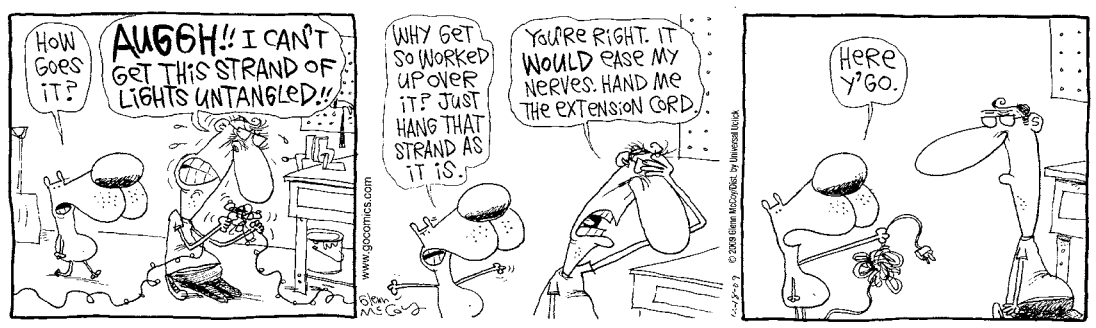
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW GOES IT?
AUGGH!! I CAN'T GET THIS STRAND OF LIGHTS UNTANGLED!!
www.gocomics.com
WHY GET SO WORKED UP OVER IT? JUST HANG THAT STRAND AS IT IS.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WOULD EASE MY NERVES. HAND ME THE EXTENSION CORD.
HERE Y'GO.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

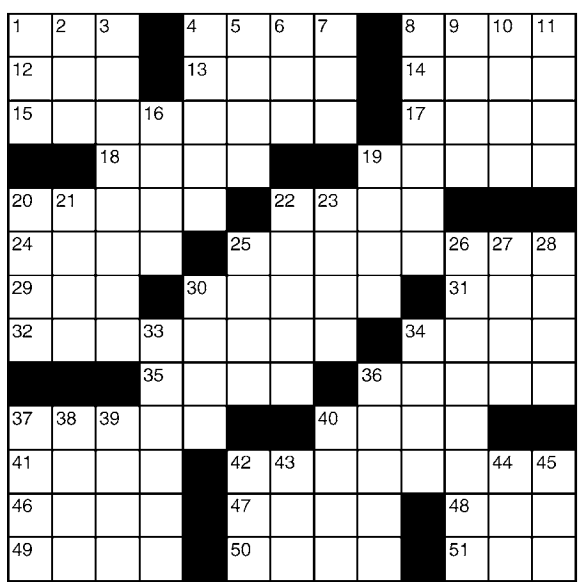
ACROSS
1 Tummy muscles
4 Talon
8 European capital
12 Rotation duration
13 Swear-word
14 Satanic
15 Roget's list?
17 Edges
18 Hair salon supply
19 High nest
20 Ranch statistic
22 Isinglass
24 Lummox
25 Do the tourist thing
29 Felon's flight
30 Hiawatha's transport
31 Singer Sumac
32 Willing participant?
34 Heal, as a fracture
35 Addict
36 Theater array
37 Leonine comments
40 Dance lesson
41 Tel —
42 It makes a long story short
46 Put together
47 Inheritor
48 Wapiti
49 Coaster
50 Catch sight of
51 Crafty

DOWN
1 Billboards
2 Chesapeake or Hudson
3 Group of symptoms
4 Ice-cream parlor stack
5 Deposits
6 $ dispenser
7 "How come?"
8 Prepare leftovers
9 Finished
10 "La Boheme" role
11 Differently
16 — and terminer
19 Rue the run
20 Competent
21 Wheedle
22 Not that important
23 "Young Frankenstein" role
25 Fill till full
26 Spots between neurons
27 Send forth
28 Chows down on
30 Talk a blue streak?
33 Not straight
34 Retain
36 Tale
37 St. Louis team
38 Elliptical
39 Staffer
40 Wield scissors
42 That girl
43 "Absolutely"
44 Under the weather
45 Firmament

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	C	B	M	■	C	A	M	■	S	A	P	S
S	A	R	I	■	A	G	A	■	O	L	I	O
I	V	A	N	■	T	O	R	■	U	K	E	S
S	E	N	D	E	E	■	S	O	S	A	■	■
■	■	■	S	A	R	A	H	P	A	L	I	N
F	I	F	E	R	■	R	A	T	■	I	D	O
L	O	U	T	■	A	O	L	■	K	N	E	E
A	T	L	■	I	D	A	■	A	R	E	A	L
P	A	L	I	N	D	R	O	M	E	■	■	■
■	■	P	O	K	E	■	U	P	M	O	S	T
D	R	A	W	■	N	A	T	■	L	U	A	U
Y	O	G	A	■	D	I	D	■	I	S	N	T
E	D	E	N	■	A	D	O	■	N	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 12-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Aguilera, 29; Katie Holmes, 31; Earl "DMX" Simmons, 39; Brad Pitt, 46

Happy Birthday: Taking a serious approach to life never hurts but this year it may leave you feeling cold and left out. You have to be willing to make a few changes that will please the people in your life who mean the most to you. It's adaptability that will see you through to better times. Your numbers are 4, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Refrain from making a decision or taking action. Let the dust settle before you evaluate what needs to be done and how to go about doing it. Concentrate on love and your own well-being. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't leave anything to chance. Have your strategy in place and you can make your life better both professionally and personally. A new year is coming, so don't be afraid of change. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect to make an unorthodox move. You will have to learn the ropes quickly in order to take advantage of an opportunity. Don't take on someone else's burden. A change of attitude will lead to altering your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You must make choices if you want to control your current situation. You can turn a friendship into a partnership that enhances both your lives. Don't hold back when you should be sharing your ideas and working toward a better future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Check out the competition and learn from what others are doing and pursuing. Doing so will help you choose the path you should follow in the new year. Before grabbing an unique offer, consider whether or not you should go it alone. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An event that brings together personal and professional people will enable you to impress someone who can help you with future plans. Do some last-minute shopping. You will please someone with your adaptability. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let things go when you should be acting fast to stifle something that could make you look bad. Escaping from a stressful situation at home will only make matters worse. Use past experience to make the right choice now. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Spreading your interests to take in more community events and activities will help you gain respect as well as potential business. The information you learn about the area where you live will help you decipher what you can bring to the table and how you can distribute it. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You have to get back to basics. A new look at an old idea will lead to extra cash. Not everyone in your family will be happy about the changes but you cannot turn down the chance to get ahead. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Work toward peace and solutions with the people who oppose you. You can please your family by putting time aside to celebrate your victory and discuss your future plans. An unexpected surprise is in the stars. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will not have all the facts, so cannot make a reliable decision. Anger will lead to an unfortunate falling out; helping others will turn things around. Love will lead to a passionate encounter that can set the stage for the new year. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Volunteer your help and you may be able to avoid turmoil with someone you love. A change of plans mustn't cause worry, even if it does lead to mixed feelings about someone. Don't let someone else's stress drag you down or create a problem for you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, reserved and a high achiever. You are dedicated, loyal and true to whatever purpose, person or proposition you support.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		1	2		6	8		7
5								3
			7		4			
		8				1		
	3						6	
		9				3		
			9		3			
2								8
6		3	8		1	2		4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	1	3	2	9	6	7	5
7	9	6	5	1	4	8	3	2
3	2	5	7	6	8	4	9	1
1	6	7	2	4	5	9	8	3
8	3	2	9	7	1	5	6	4
9	5	4	6	8	3	1	2	7
6	4	8	1	3	2	7	5	9
5	1	3	8	9	7	2	4	6
2	7	9	4	5	6	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRESHMAN COLLEGE STUDENTS **Solution: 4 letters**

E	A	L	S	D	T	E	R	O	M	O	H	P	O	S
D	T	C	E	U	X	E	M	I	T	S	B	U	L	C
U	C	A	T	A	B	D	E	T	E	E	M	A	F	G
C	N	O	M	I	D	J	H	R	O	N	I	M	R	N
A	R	S	U	M	V	E	E	P	G	C	A	O	A	O
(T)	(E)	(S)	(T)	R	O	I	R	C	O	E	U	S	T	T
I	Y	O	T	R	S	O	S	S	T	P	D	R	E	E
O	S	T	Y	N	F	E	R	M	H	R	R	O	R	S
N	C	S	R	E	E	R	A	C	B	I	U	N	N	O
T	H	L	S	A	O	D	A	T	S	U	P	O	I	R
F	O	S	A	O	P	M	U	T	H	L	D	H	T	O
I	O	C	K	S	P	R	U	T	E	L	A	G	Y	R
R	L	I	S	U	S	D	A	D	S	M	E	O	E	I
S	E	S	S	A	Y	E	G	N	A	L	P	T	G	T
T	R	O	J	A	M	E	S	S	K	O	O	B	E	Y

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Activism, Athlete, Books, Budget, Campus, Careers, Classes, Clubs, Course, Dean, Degree, Education, Essay, Exams, First, Fraternity, Goals, Group, Honors, Leadership, Major, Mascot, Meet, Minor, Notes, Party, Plan, Pledge, Prank, Professor, Rookie, Roommate, School, Social, Sophomore, Sorority, Students, Study, Subject, Team, Test, Theory, Time, Tour, Tutor

Yesterday's Answer: Costume

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FESTIVAL

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Find today's solution in this section

FOR SALE

Very low mileage, clean and well maintained vehicles!
~~(1) 1997 Toyota T1[illegible] Up ..... $5,300.00~~ SOLD
(2) 2004 Ford Explorer XLT SUV.....$10,900.00 each
For more information, please call 322-2222

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806 / 7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LI CHUN CHEN, Petioner, Versus **XI HE BI,** Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0695 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 10th day of December, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

TJM Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER
$30.00
per house 500 sqm
(negotiable)
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NMHC

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$70,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, December 28, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-017

Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed and must be paid to the CNMI Treasurer. A proof of receipt for the project package is required. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospect bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Banzai Cliff Road, Marpi adjacent to the Veteran Cemetery. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 17, 2009 to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, Office of the Capitol Improvement, 1st Floor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-017"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, December 28, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time December 28, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 28, 2009 and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. January 07, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 08, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on December 29, 2009.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury Listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars ($500.00.), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred seventy (270) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-028

Rehabilitation of the Basketball Court Facility, Koblerville

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Koblerville Basketball Court Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Monday, December 07, 2009 at the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Koblerville Road, Koblerville, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 15, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-028"**. An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-036

Susupe Multi-purpose Center Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Susupe Multi-purpose Center Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Monday, December 21, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Monday, December 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Multi-purpose Center, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted by email or in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 29, 2009 to Mr. Chris Fryling, Project Manager, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at chris@n15architects.com, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB10-GOV-036". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 18, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 18, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 18, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. January 25, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, January 25, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 18, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one forty-five (45) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by forty-five (45) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

On day like no other, 2 Cy Young winners swapped

NEW YORK (AP)—On a day like no other in baseball history, two Cy Young Award winners in their primes changed teams.

The four-club, nine-player megatrade became official Wednesday, with the Toronto Blue Jays sending 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay to the Philadelphia Phillies, who in turn dealt 2008 AL Cy Young winner Cliff Lee to the Seattle Mariners.

Halladay got a $60 million, three-year contract extension through 2013 in exchange for waiving his no-trade clause, and Toronto paid Philadelphia $6 million as part of the swap. Seven prospects changed hands, with Oakland also part of the mix.

"This is where we wanted to be," Halladay said at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. "It was an easy decision for me. Once the opportunity came up for me to be part of this, it was something I couldn't pass up."

Two Cy Young winners had never been traded on the same day. And that wasn't the only big deal.

Boston finalized an $82.5 million, five-year contract for pitcher John Lackey and a $15.5 million, two-year agreement with outfielder Mike Cameron. The Red Sox also must figure out whether the Mike Lowell-to-Texas trade will go through and have been discussing whether to acquire Adrian Gonzalez from San Diego, a deal that could send Clay Buchholz and/or Jacoby Ellsbury to the Padres.

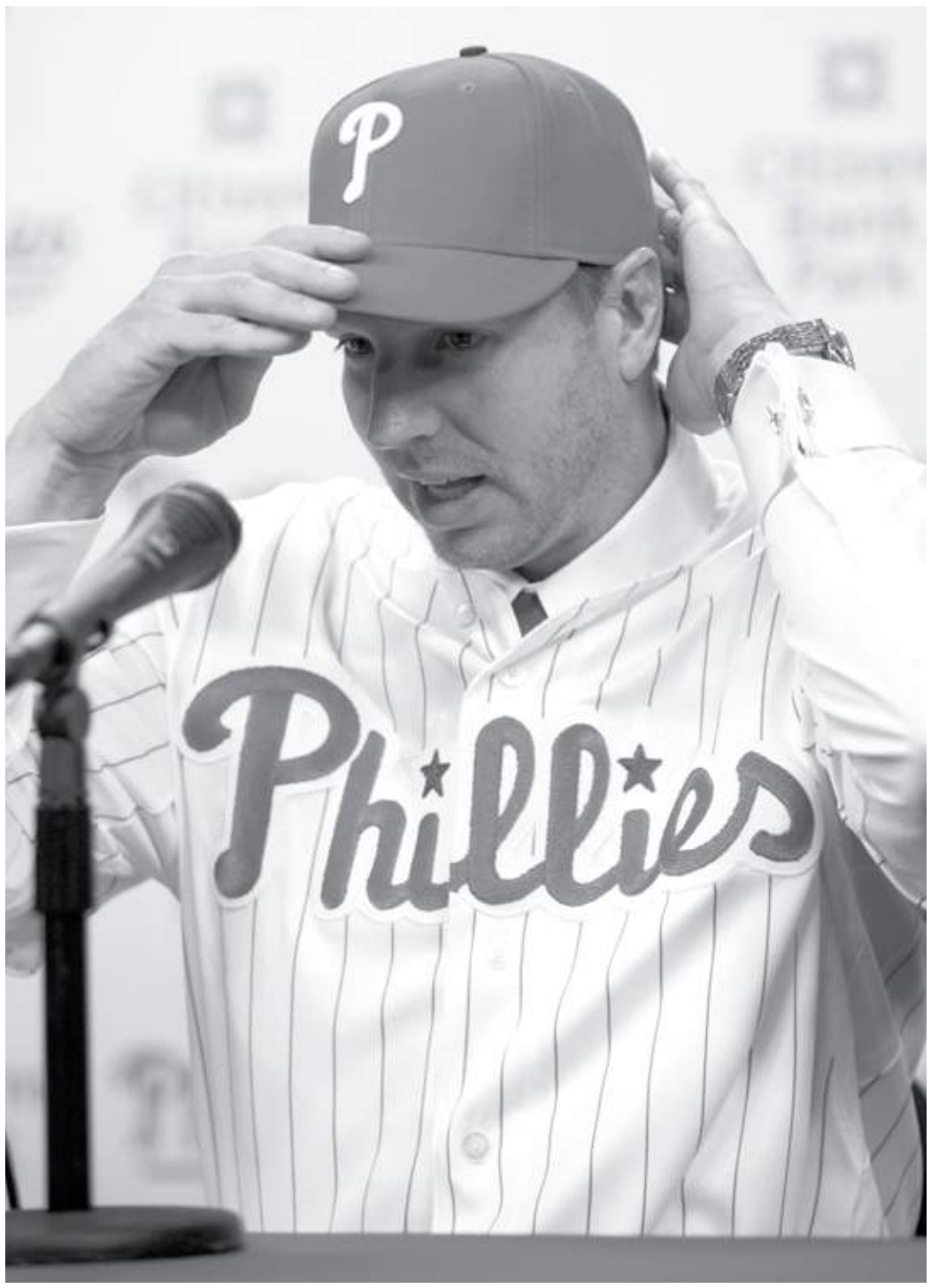
"I was always interested in coming here. Winning was definitely my first priority of a team to go to," Lackey said. "I've been knocked out of the playoffs a few times by them. I know I'm going to have a chance to win here, and that means a lot."

World Series MVP Hideki Matsui finalized a $6 million, one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels, ending his seven-season run with the New York Yankees.

"This is the beginning of a new journey for me," Matsui said through a translator. "I'd like to do my best in every way I can to bring another world championship to this team since they won in 2002."

The Yankees haven't been close to making any moves since acquiring Curtis Granderson from Detroit last week. New York, which planned to introduce the center fielder on Thursday, is far apart from left fielder Johnny Damon, who has asked for a $39 million, three-year deal.

The Baltimore Orioles landed a proven lefty for the back of their bullpen, reaching a preliminary agreement on a $12 million, two-year contract with Mike Gonzalez, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.



AP

New Philadelphia Phillies baseball pitcher Roy Halladay puts on a hat during a baseball news conference in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009.

The deal is pending a physical, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the contract had not been completed.

The 31-year-old Gonzalez figures to get an opportunity to become Baltimore's closer. He was 5-4 with a 2.42 ERA and 10 saves last season for Atlanta. He has 54 saves in seven major league seasons, including a career-high 24 with Pittsburgh in 2006.

Also on Wednesday, Milwaukee completed a $7.5 million, two-year contract with reliever LaTroy Hawkins. Detroit agreed to a $2.5 million, two-year deal with infielder Ramon Santiago, who had been eligible for salary arbitration.

The 32-year-old Halladay, who has an offseason home near the Phillies' spring training complex in Clearwater, Fla., is considered by many the top starting pitcher in the major leagues. He was sent to the two-time NL champions for three minor leaguers: catcher Travis d'Arnaud, right-hander Kyle Drabek and outfielder Michael Taylor.

Philadelphia dealt Lee to Seattle for three prospects: right-hander Phillippe Aumont, outfielder Tyson Gillies and right-hander Juan Ramirez.

Toronto flipped Taylor to the Athletics for minor league third baseman Brett Wallace.

Philadelphia general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. couldn't afford to add Halladay and keep Lee, who can become a free agent after next season.

"If I had my druthers, I'd love to have both of them on the club," Amaro said.

Halladay will make $15.75 million next year, and the amount of cash in the deal almost covers the difference in salaries between Lee and Halladay.

"Did I think we'd be getting a guy of this caliber? You always set your expectations high," Seattle GM Jack Zduriencik said. "We're really glad it came to fruition."

Halladay's extension pays $20 million annually from 2011-13. There is a $20 million option for 2014 that becomes guaranteed if he meets all three of the following: pitches 225 innings in 2013, pitches 415 innings combined in 2012 and 2013 and is not on the disabled list at the end of the 2013 season.

"We weren't sitting back and seeing what was offered. We asked for specific players and were trying to get the best value that we could and that's why we explored a lot of three-, four-, five-team deals," new Toronto GM Alex Anthopoulos said.

Agent: Bengals receiver Henry 'battling for life'

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry is "battling for his life" after falling out of the back of a pickup truck Wednesday during what police described as a domestic dispute with his fiancee.

Henry was found in the road about eight miles north of downtown Charlotte "apparently suffering life-threatening injuries," according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Police spokesman Robert Fey said officers were stationed near the 26-year-old Henry's hospital room. He had no information on Henry's condition, but said he was alive.

"We ask everyone to pray for Chris," agent Andy Simms of PlayersRep Sports said in a statement. "We also ask that you respect the privacy of Chris' family. Chris is indeed battling for his life tonight, and our thoughts and prayers (are) with him during this extremely difficult time."

Police said a dispute began at a home just before noon and Henry jumped into the bed of the pickup truck as his fiancée—whom they did not identify by name—was driving away from the residence.

"The domestic situation continued between the operator and Mr. Henry," the police said in a statement. "At some point while she was driving, Mr. Henry came out of the back of the vehicle."

Henry was found on a residential street about a half mile from the home when police were called to the scene. Fey wouldn't identify the woman and said no charges would be filed Wednesday.

Henry is engaged to Loleini Tonga, and the couple has been raising three children. Tonga's MySpace page identifies herself as "Mrs. C. Henry" and has a picture of her next to a person who appears to be Henry. She also has a post from Tuesday talking about buying wedding rings.

Neighbor Karen Clanton said the Tonga family lives in the house where the police say the incident began, adding that she didn't witness it and that "they're nice folks."

No one answered the door Wednesday night at the two-story home in the modest neighborhood. A limousine was parked in the long driveway, and there were tire tracks on the front lawn.

Henry was away from the team after breaking his left forearm during a win over Baltimore on Nov. 8. He had surgery and was placed on season-ending injured reserve following the game. Charlotte is home to his fiancee's parents.

Team spokesman Jack Brennan said he had little information other than Henry was badly hurt.

"We are aware he was in an accident and that his injuries are very serious," Brennan said. "We are obviously staying in touch with the situation and are ready to offer whatever assistance we can."

Henry is in the final year of his contract with the Bengals, who let him go after his fifth arrest following the 2007 season. Owner Mike Brown then brought him back a few months later, signing him to a two-year deal. Henry had stayed out of trouble since his return, turning into a feel-good story that got fans rooting for him.

In an interview with The Cincinnati Enquirer in October, Henry credited his fiancee for helping him straighten out his life, saying, "She's been a big help. She's been right here with me and going through things and helping out on my side. We have the kids, and she has my back with everything I've needed."

From the start, his career has been sidetracked by off-the-field problems.

Henry repeatedly got in trouble at West Virginia, where former Mountaineers coach Rich Rodriguez told him that he was an embarrassment to himself and the program.

Most teams to shied away from Henry in the 2005 draft. Cincinnati was the only one that brought him in for a visit, and warned him that he had to stay out of trouble if he was going to make it in the NFL. Then, the Bengals drafted him in the third round.

His ability to run past defenders made him an integral part of the Bengals' run to the playoffs in 2005. He caught Carson Palmer's only pass in a playoff loss to Pittsburgh—both of them were hurt on the play.

His rookie season also marked the beginning of his problems in the NFL. He was arrested for marijuana possession in December 2005, and again on a weapons charge a month later in Florida. He was arrested four times in all, drawing repeated suspensions—two games in 2006, the first half of the 2007 season—for violating the league's conduct policy.

When he was arrested for a fifth time after the 2007 season, the Bengals released Henry. Over the objection of coach Marvin Lewis, Brown changed his mind and gave Henry another chance, offering a two-year contract before the 2008 season began.

After serving a four-game suspension to start the 2008 season, he returned and caught 19 passes in the last 12 games, becoming an afterthought in the offense. He spent the offseason getting in shape and working out so he could become a top receiver again. He impressed coaches and teammates with his newfound determination to resurrect his career.

Before the start of the season, he got a tattoo that said "Blessed" below his left ear, a reminder that he's gotten plenty of extra chances.

"I don't live the way I did in the past," Henry said, in an interview with The Associated Press during training camp. "I kind of plan my days out and take it one day at a time and stay away from the wrong people. I'm not partying anymore. I'm just focused on football right now and my family. I don't associate with the same people. I've completely changed everything."

A thigh injury limited him early in the season. He had 12 catches for 236 yards and a pair of touchdowns before he broke his arm.

Nuggets lose Billups but beat Rockets

DENVER (AP)—Denver's Carmelo Anthony scored 38 points—his fifth straight 30-plus point performance—as the Nuggets overcame the loss of star guard Chauncey Billups to beat the Houston Rockets 111-101 in the NBA on Wednesday.

Billups, who had 15 points and is averaging 17.5, left the game with a groin strain late in the third quarter. There was no immediate word on his status for Friday's game at New Orleans.

Reserve J.R. Smith added 21 points for the Nuggets, who retained a 3-1/2 game lead atop the Northwest Division.

Aaron Brooks scored 23 points for Houston.

Lakers 107, Bucks 106, OT

In Milwaukee, Kobe Bryant hit a 15-footer as time expired to give Los Angeles an overtime win over Milwaukee.

Bryant scored the game's final seven points over the last 1:18 of overtime. He had 27 of his 39 points in the second half and overtime, but missed a shot at the buzzer that would have won it in regulation.

Given a second chance in overtime, he made no mistake.

Pau Gasol had 26 points and a career-high 22 rebounds for the Lakers, who tied Boston for the best record in the NBA with their 13th win in the past 14 games.

Mavericks 100, Thunder 86

In Oklahoma City, Dirk Nowitzki had 35 points and 11 rebounds to lead Dallas to a comfortable win over Oklahoma City.

Nowitzki made up for Kevin Durant, clad in new orange sneakers, matching his lowest-scoring total of the season with only 12 points on 4-for-18 shooting.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 16 points.

Magic 118, Raptors 99

In Orlando, Florida, potent 3-point shooting helped Orlando to a win over Toronto.

Dwight Howard had 18 points, 14 rebounds and eight blocks for the Magic, while Rashard Lewis added 21 points.

Orlando shot 14 of 30 from beyond the arc.

Toronto's Hedo Turkoglu was showered with a mix of cheers and boos and scored 14 points as he returned to Orlando, where he was a fan favorite before parting ways in the offseason.

Hawks 110, Grizzlies 97

In Atlanta, the hosts pulled away in the second half for their fifth straight win, beating Memphis.

Despite playing only 29 minutes, Joe Johnson scored 26 points, making 10 of 16 shots from the field, including a couple of 3-pointers, and chipped in with eight rebounds and three assists.

Sam Young led Memphis with 20 points.

Cavaliers 108, 76ers 101

In Philadelphia, LeBron James hit two clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and scored 36 points to lead Cleveland over Philadelphia.

James was in trademark form against one of the worst teams in the NBA, shooting 12 of 26 from the floor.

Mo Williams hit back-to-back shots in the fourth that gave the Cavaliers a lead they would never relinquish, and scored 12 points.

Andre Iguodala's 26 point led the Sixers, who have lost 13 of 14 games.

Hornets 95, Pistons 87

In New Orleans, the hosts overcome a 16-point deficit to beat Detroit.

David West had a season-high 32 points and 12 rebounds, while Chris Paul scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half and added 12 assists for New Orleans.

Rodney Stuckey scored 26 points for the Pistons, who were without starter Richard Hamilton because of a sore right hamstring.

Spurs 103, Warriors 91

In Oakland, California, San Antonio picked up a rare road win, beating Golden State.

Tim Duncan had 27 points and 15 rebounds, and Richard Jefferson scored 17 points for the Spurs, who downed Golden State for a seventh straight time.

Monta Ellis scored 35 points for injury-riddled Golden State, which played without its top three centers in coach Don Nelson's return to the bench. The Warriors have lost four straight.

Pacers 101, Bobcats 98

In Indianapolis, Troy Murphy had 26 points and 15 rebounds, leading Indiana over Charlotte.

T.J. Ford added 15 points and 13 assists for the Pacers.

Gerald Wallace had 29 points and 12 rebounds for the Bobcats, who are 1-11 on the road.

Kings 112, Wizards 109

In Sacramento, California, rookie Tyreke Evans scored 26 points as Sacramento held on to edge Washington.

Omri Casspi had a season-high 22 for the Kings, who posted their first win over the Wizards in nine attempts.

Gilbert Arenas scored 33 points for Washington, which has lost six straight games.

Jazz 108, Nets 92

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer recorded double-doubles, and Utah added to hapless New Jersey's woes.

Williams had 20 points and 14 assists, while Boozer added 26 points and 10 rebounds as the Jazz handed the Nets their fifth straight loss.

Brook Lopez had 23 points and 10 rebounds for New Jersey, which got one piece of good news on Wednesday when it was announced that Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov had moved a step closer to becoming the NBA's first non-North American owner.

Clippers 120, Timberwolves 95

In Minneapolis, Chris Kaman had 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead Los Angeles over Minnesota.

Marcus Camby had 10 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks for the Clippers. Kevin Love had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Artest disagrees with backlash against Woods

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Lakers forward Ron Artest says an open letter to Tiger Woods that was posted on his Web site was meant to encourage the golf superstar because Artest believes media coverage of Woods' mistakes has been unfair.

"I just really disagree, I guess you call it backlash," Artest said Wednesday. "Hopefully, he gets everything in order and gets back on track, his personal (life). Then after that I can't wait to see him play golf again."

Artest said he was motivated to write the letter after talking with friends because of the negative coverage Woods has received since acknowledging marital infidelity following his Nov. 27 car accident near his Orlando-area home.

Artest doesn't know Woods and does not want the golfer to contact him about the comments he published Tuesday on his Web site.

In his post, Artest called Woods a perfect role model while sharing some of his own story, including that he fathered a child with another woman after having two children with his girlfriend who later became his wife. Artest said in his blog he now has two boys and two girls.

"I just felt it was a situation where we heard one of the greatest is not going to play golf, a sport that he loves," Artest said. "Ok, look at me. I'm over here in L.A., having a great season, back on track and I make way more mistakes than him. Hopefully that's some words of encouragement."

Artest's blog post called Woods a "perfect role model for me and my sons."

Pacman vs Floyd to be finalized this week

MANILA, Philippines— Although the venue remains the only issue that seems left unresolved, a source close to the negotiations has indicated that the March 13 Manny Pacquiao vs Floyd Mayweather Jr., fight will "definitely be finalized this week."

"I really believe that it will be done by late Thursday," the source was quoted as saying. "It will definitely be finalized this week. I'm just not sure if it's going to be Dallas or the MGM."

Billionaires Jerry Jones and Mark Cuban are reportedly trying their best to bring the fight to Dallas, Texas, with its 100,000-capacity Dallas Cowboys Stadium as venue. Jones, who owns the Dallas Cowboys, has dangled a $25 million guarantee to organizers to bring the fight to his home stadium.

The MGM Grand of Las Vegas, however, is expected to match or even up the ante, as both Pacquiao and Mayweather have expressed interest in holding the fight in Sin City.

"I believe that it will end up at the MGM because both fighters want to fight in Las Vegas," said Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz. "I think that both fighters have expressed their desire to fight in Las Vegas."

Pacquiao, to show good faith in his desire to fight Mayweather, has even agreed to an Olympic-style, random drug test at the request of Mayweather's camp.

The 32-year-old Mayweather, a five-time champion being represented by Richard Shaefer of Golden Boy Promotions in the on-going negotiations, is 6-0 with two knockouts at The MGM.

Pacquiao, who will turn 31 tomorrow, is a winner of seven crowns in as many weight divisions, and is promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank. Pacquiao is 3-1-1 at MGM. ***(PDI)***

KAGMAN

From Page 36

Diaz made the first one on a baseline getaway to put KHS in the lead, 39-37, with 1:27 left on the clock.

Lia Rangamar, who top-scored for MHS with 11 points and could have scored more if she was not gun-shy in the second half, decided to take matters in her own hands in the ensuing play for the Lady Dolphins. However, just when she was ready to take charge, she missed a layup.

Kagman also faltered on its next offensive set and the succeeding plays had KHS and MHS players diving for loose balls, prompting referees to call four held balls. Possession arrow shifted from one team to another with Kagman getting the breaks.

With 42.9 seconds left and after the third jumpball was called, Kagman had the leather and just when the 24-second shot clock was about to expire, Diaz pulled up for a 10-footer and canned the crucial basket, giving the Lady Ayuyus a 41-37 lead.

The fourth held ball was called after Lena Guzman muffed a short baseline jumper and KHS and MHS rebounders ganged up for the offensive board. Possession remained with the Lady Dolphins, who missed on their second attempt.

Kagman collared the rebound this time and MHS was forced to give up a foul and send Mizutani to the 15-foot line. Mizutani split his charities putting the finishing touches on Kagman's upset win, as the Lady Ayuyus were ahead by five with only 9.6 seconds remaining in the game.

MHS was the clear favorite in the three-team league, as it defeated Kagman three times in four outings. Kagman had to beat Saipan Southern High School in a playoff game on Monday, 60-46, to set its third rematch against the Lady Dolphins.

"Our players played big on a big-time game. Although we lost to MHS three times, I told our players to keep their heads up, give their best in the last and most important game and they did," KHS coach Francis San Nicolas said.

"I also told them to enjoy the game, play as a team, move the ball around and always find an open teammate. They did what they were exactly told and we nailed this one," he added.

It was a second sorry loss in a title match for MHS, which also had a runner-up finish last season, bowing to the same team. The Lady Dolphins downed the Lady Ayuyus twice in their three meetings last season before the latter cruised to a 56-47 victory in the finals.

This season's finale was anybody's ballgame, as MHS and Kagman traded baskets with neither team leading by more than five points.

MHS took a 12-11 lead in the first quarter on Rangamar's six points. The second and third quarters ended in deadlocks, 17-all and 25-all, as after one team made a shot, the other answered back, moving the frenzied crowd up on their feet.

The neck-and-neck game continued in the fourth until Kagman won the breaks on held balls and Diaz hit two big baskets.

KHS 42 – Mizutani 12, Diaz 8, Mesa 8, Jetley 6, Hofschneider 6

MHS 37 – Rangamar 11, Benavente 10, Mendoza 5, Guzman 6, Williams 2, Palero 2, Javier 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-12, 19-20, 25-25, 42-37.

ISLAND

From Page 36

also had a homer apiece in the third inning and fourth inning, respectively.

Island Rebels improved to a 3-0 record, tying them with Natibu for the lead, while Ramblers dropped to a 1-2 mark.

Island Rebels' defense allowed Ramblers to score only in the last two innings with Ben Falig and Tony Pangelinan making one homer each in the fourth and Henry Reyes reaching home plate in the fifth on Sidney Kani's single.

Ur Balls 16, Team Familia 4

The second game of the night was completed in seven innings with Ur Balls downing Team Familia, 16-4.

Shortstop Oliver Secharmidal reigned supreme in Ur Balls' second victory in three games, connecting on two homers and posting seven RBIs. He went perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4, scored two runs, and had one triple.

Second baseman Mike Taitano was also flawless at bat, hitting 4-for-4. He tallied four runs, made two doubles, and had one RBI. Vincent Sablan, Marvin Kaipat, and John Paul Lizama chipped in one RBI each.

Team Familia absorbed its second loss after three matches as it scored no more than two runs in an inning. It logged one run apiece in the third and seventh inning and had its best showing in the fifth with Raynard Aranda and Ryan Ada reaching home plate.

Man Amigos 25, Chura 15

Man Amigos handed Chura its first loss, nailing a 25-15 victory in the third game of the night.

Chura and Man Amigos traded runs, but the latter finally had the edge in the last two innings, scoring 13 against the former's three.

Rightfielder Eric Palacios, catcher Mark Flores, and centerfielder Julian Camacho recorded two RBIs each at the top of the fifth inning to break the deadlock, 22-12.

Chura answered with only a run from Ben Mesa at the top of the fifth and it failed to extend the game when it drilled only three runs in the sixth inning.

Camacho finished 3-for-4 at bat, made four RBIs, and logged three runs for Man Amigos. Jerry Ayuyu, J.J. Laniyo, Flores, and Joe Torres had three RBIs apiece.

ADVANCE

From Page 36

back from Advance.

Muleta broke the deadlock with a pair of free throws and then buried a triple after Estolas split his charities to give Advance a 74-68 lead, going into the final three minutes of the game.

Prospects had several chances to cut the lead, but Ryan Sanciangco missed a bundle of charities and Chris Paul and Jeff Pagarao both went 0-for-2 in their last trip to the 15-foot line.

In contrast, Advance was 8-for-10 in the foul line in the closing minutes of the match to improve to a 3-0 record. Muleta was perfect, going 4-for-4, Pelisamen went 2-for-2, and Estolas fired 2-for-4.

Estolas top-scored for Advance with 22 points, while Muleta nailed 15, making all of them in the second half. Pelisaman added nine markers.

Bonbon Cadagat paced Prospects with 16 points, but was scoreless in the fourth period, missing a couple of triples and committing several passing errors. His nine points in the opening quarter gave Prospects a 26-14 advantage.

Darwin Barbo chipped in 12, while Pagarao added 10, but spent most of the second half sitting on the bench and was already cold when he reported back to the game.

In the first match, Cholos broke into the win column after a 0-2 start, following an 87-53 demolition of Trinity Estate, Inc.

Cholos had four players scoring in double figures to give the team a balance offense. Won Joo Jung, Maverick Itibus, and Bobby Coldeen drilled 14 points apiece, while Adrian Baculud contributed 12.

Cholos led in double figures early, 21-11, and had the lead balloon to 23 at halftime, 45-22, as Coldeen and company went on a scoring spree. Trinity never recovered from thereon, dropping to a 0-3 start in the eight-team league.

First Game

Cholos 87 – Jung 14, Itibus 14, Coldeen 14, Baculud 12, Sablan 8, Kapileo 6, Mendiola 6, Apatang 4, Buchun 4.

Trinity Estate 53 – Herrera 24, Hernandez 14, Dulfo 6, A. Loste 2, Manuel 2, Valiente 2, J. Loste 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 45-22, 68-37, 87-53.

Second Game

Advance 84 – Estolas 22, Muleta15, Pelisamen 9, Guiab 7, Fitial 7, De Guzman 7, Factor 6, Talania 4, Opone 2, Rebuyon 2.

Prospects 78 – Cadagat 16, Barbo 12, Pagarao 10, Paul 9, Sanciangco 7, Aughenbaugh 7, Wright 6, Inos 3, Johnson 3, Moises 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-26, 35-39, 61-56, 84-78.

CHRISTMAS

From Page 36

several years ago. It cannot be achieved in a day or week or month. Things that are truly worthwhile take longer than that. Ji Hoon Heo, now a world-ranked junior tennis player, has embarked on a similar path of success, overcoming the limitations of growing up on a small, remote island.

To all Little League players, may you acquire the talent and skill to enable you to win the Asia-Pacific regional tournaments next July and earn a trip to the World Series. Baseball practice is as important as the games because that's how you improve.

To all junior tennis players, may you acquire the talent and skill to sweep all eight spots on the North Pacific tennis team to get a summer trip to Fiji.

To all youth soccer players, may you get the Koblerville sports complex completed with deluxe training fields. And may the CNMI government get the funds needed to accomplish that. Also, here's hoping the CNMI finally takes the Marianas Cup from Guam.

To all coaches, please continue to upgrade your ability to pass on knowledge to the next generation of athletes and also more importantly, the enjoyment that comes with sports.

To all those endeavoring (it's truly an endeavor!) to go to Palau for the Micronesian Games next August, I hope you are successful as it is an opportunity of a lifetime. Hopefully, the CNMI will be able to send a full contingent to the region's biggest sporting event.

And finally, above all, I wish of you to be cancer free. I don't know if it's because of my advancing age or just a sign of the times but too many people I know, good people, it seems are getting cancer. It's a terrible disease that needs our attention. Learn more about it. Help comfort others. Do what you can. I want to give you a Christmas present next year, too.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	4	.833	–
Toronto	11	17	.393	11
New York	8	16	.333	12
Philadelphia	6	19	.240	14 1/2
New Jersey	2	24	.077	19

Southeast Division

Orlando	19	6	.760	–
Atlanta	18	6	.750	1/2
Miami	12	11	.522	6
Charlotte	10	14	.417	8 1/2
Washington	7	16	.304	11

Central Division

Cleveland	19	7	.731	–
Milwaukee	11	12	.478	6 1/2
Detroit	11	14	.440	7 1/2
Indiana	9	14	.391	8 1/2
Chicago	8	15	.348	9 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	19	7	.731	–
San Antonio	13	10	.565	4 1/2
Houston	14	11	.560	4 1/2
New Orleans	11	13	.458	7
Memphis	10	15	.400	8 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	19	7	.731	–
Utah	15	10	.600	3 1/2
Portland	15	11	.577	4
Oklahoma City	12	12	.500	6
Minnesota	4	22	.154	15

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	20	4	.833	–
Phoenix	17	8	.680	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	13	.458	9
Sacramento	11	13	.458	9
Golden State	7	18	.280	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 108, Philadelphia 101
Atlanta 110, Memphis 97
Indiana 101, Charlotte 98
Orlando 118, Toronto 99
Utah 108, New Jersey 92
L.A. Lakers 107, Milwaukee 106, OT
L.A. Clippers 120, Minnesota 95
Dallas 100, Oklahoma City 86
New Orleans 95, Detroit 87
Denver 111, Houston 101
Sacramento 112, Washington 109
San Antonio 103, Golden State 91

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	25	265	207	759	30.4
James, CLE	25	249	177	715	28.6
Durant, OKC	23	220	186	655	28.5
Bryant, LAL	23	245	142	654	28.4
Wade, MIA	23	203	187	613	26.7
Nowitzki, DAL	25	236	175	665	26.6
Granger, IND	17	130	102	414	24.4
Bosh, TOR	27	222	203	653	24.2
Ellis, GOL	24	224	113	576	24.0
Gay, MEM	23	185	102	491	21.3
Roy, POR	26	193	137	555	21.3
Jennings, MIL	22	173	68	464	21.1
Johnson, ATL	23	188	76	482	21.0
Arenas, WAS	22	158	98	451	20.5
Williams, UTA	22	166	90	449	20.4
Boozer, UTA	24	196	90	482	20.1
Evans, SAC	22	162	105	440	20.0
Harrington, NYK	24	171	92	474	19.8
Duncan, SAN	20	159	77	395	19.8
Lopez, NJN	25	179	132	490	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	113	174	.649
Howard, ORL	140	221	.633
Gasol, MEM	129	211	.611
Hilario, DEN	126	217	.581
Horford, ATL	126	218	.578
Landry, HOU	148	257	.576
Lee, NYK	176	307	.573
Bynum, LAL	143	250	.572
Garnett, BOS	156	274	.569
Millsap, UTA	100	177	.565

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	24	96	208	304	12.7
Noah, CHI	23	100	179	279	12.1
Wallace, CHA	23	54	223	277	12.0
Bosh, TOR	27	96	215	311	11.5
Boozer, UTA	24	50	216	266	11.1
Camby, LAC	23	65	187	252	11.0
Haywood, WAS	22	100	136	236	10.7
Duncan, SAN	20	60	147	207	10.4
Lee, NYK	24	54	189	243	10.1
Randolph, MEM	24	112	128	240	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	25	280	11.2
Paul, NOR	15	162	10.8
Williams, UTA	22	226	10.3
Rondo, BOS	24	227	9.5
Kidd, DAL	25	228	9.1
James, CLE	25	200	8.0
B. Davis, LAC	23	166	7.2
Arenas, WAS	22	152	6.9
Westbrook, OKC	23	155	6.7
Duhon, NYK	24	150	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UBA STANDINGS

Advance	3	0
Ol'Aces	2	0
Prospect	2	1
Diamond	1	1
Noni Saipan	1	1
Cholos1	2	
Hoopaholics	0	2
Trinity	0	3

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	3	0
Island Rebels	3	0
Chura	2	1
Man Amigos	2	1
Ur Balls	2	1
San Roque	2	1
SaiPal	1	0
6-Pack	1	1
Red Eye	1	1
Go For Broke	1	1
Hitz	1	1
Team Fuegu	1	1
Freedom Air Flyers	1	1
Ramblers	1	2
Team Familia	1	2
Lancheros	1	2
Berdax	1	2
Blazers	0	1
Calikano-Falcons	0	1
X-Terminators	0	2
G-Ballers	0	3

BANMI starts referees, score table officials courses

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

To assist individuals in proper refereeing and handling of games statistics, the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands will be holding a series of clinics beginning this Saturday.

BANMI's Gabriel White said the association will be conducting both a Level O and Level 1 referee certification course and a score table officials seminar. The first session of the two courses will begin tomorrow and will run from 9:30am to 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The second to fourth and last part of the courses are set for Dec. 21, 22, and 23, and each session will take place from 4:30pm to 8pm. All courses are free for interested individuals.

BANMI is encouraging coaches, potential referees, and administrators from public and private schools to attend the seminar. Basketball players are also urged to attend the course to have a better perspective about how games are officiated and how games statistics are sorted out.

Certificates will be awarded to individuals who will complete the course.

White said the series of courses that BANMI will be conducting aims to continue the development of basketball in the CNMI. This development involves all aspects of the sport, such as coaching, refereeing, administration, handling of statistics, and logistics.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
BANMI's Gabriel White stresses a point during a Level O coaching and refereeing course in Rota in October this year.

Last month, BANMI conducted a Level 1 coaching course on Saipan with 12 completing the course. They were Hopwood Junior High School's Felisha Brel and Vanessa Mobel, Lerins Tamtreng, Runnin' Rebels Tyrone Omar, Dominic Joseph Omar Tudela, Sylvan Luis Rangamar, San Antonio Elementary School's Ron Olopai, Epi Cabrera, Timothy Williams, Gabriel White, the Sonics' Omar Ajoste, and former CNMI Nationals stalwart Dan Barcinas.

The course lasted for 23 hours split into three weeks and had more than 13 hours devoted to application and the rest focused on coaching principles and theories. It also covered administration, strategic planning, developing competition calendar, orientation on level coaching and refereeing, and introduction to mini basketball games and rules.

In October this year, BANMI also held a Level O coaching and refereeing course on Rota.

For more information, contact White at 234-6548 or via e-mail at awaawaa@hotmail.com.

Ghasias Brothers, Soul Rebels eke out wins

Upsets marked last week's action in the 2009 World Organized Rocball Community League as the two pacesetting teams lost at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Ghasias Brothers first outlasted No Mercy in a game that went into a double overtime.

No Mercy won the first set, 15-2, before Ghasias Brothers returned the favor with a 19-17 win in the second set.

The seesaw battle continued in the third as No Mercy blasted Ghasias Brothers, 14-4, and entered the fourth and final set ahead 47-25.

To Ghasias Brothers' credit, the team fought tooth-and-nail in the following set and forced overtime with a 15-12 victory.

Needing to win two overtime sets to complete a come-from-behind win, Ghasias Brothers made the first step when Ben Pelisamen scored a goal for a 7-2 win in the first extension.

Ghasias Brothers then dug out the win by taking the second extension, 11-3, to the shock of the No Mercy players.

Pelisamen led all scorers with three aces, four kees, and two goals for 20 points

No Mercy's Myron Laniyo, this year's heaviest hitter, came away with a jam in the game against Ghasias Brothers to elevate his level to master blaster.

In the other game, Soul Rebels handed Projects its second loss via a four-set, juice-out 59-47 victory.

Jimmy Pua led Soul Rebels in the win with four aces and three goals for a total of 17 points.

The game also saw Projects veteran player John Nekaifes join the ranks of Rocball's master blasters by slamming down a served ball from a Projects player.

Soul Rebels now have two players on their team that have proven they are in command of Rocball's scoring methods as Ben Lisua earlier joined the elite list.

Rocball action continues tomorrow, Dec. 19, starting at 4pm. The Rocball SandBlaster Tournament, meanwhile, will be held on Jan. 1, 2010 at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

There will be no entrance for the SandBlaster Tournament if teams have at least one registered Rocball player on their team. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Chang makes it two for 2009

Eun Ae Chang joined Aya Matsumoto and Kyung A. Yang as multiple winners of the CNMI Women's Golf Association monthly tournaments after topping the December swing-off last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Chang shot a net score of 69 at the west course of the Kagman facility to beat 17 other women players for the 12th and final monthly tourney of the women's club.

She shot a gross score of 87 after a front nine of 42 and a back nine of 45. Her total was then cut to 69 by virtue of her 18 U.S. Golf Association handicap.

The win followed up Chang's victory in the September tourney and matches Matsumoto and Yang's feat as the two also won in the July and October and May and June tourneys, respectively.

Going back to the December Ace, November winner Terry Tudela finished second to Chang with her net 72 (89 gross, 42-45), while third place went to August topnotcher Ching Lin Wang with her net 73 (86, 44-42).

Other participants of the December tourney, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Kim Yang (75); Seo Kyung Ran (76); Noriko Togawa (78); Dolores Yamagashi (78); Bennet Seman (78); J. Seon Hee (78); Shiori Onoue (79); Yuko Togawa (79); Sherlyn Jones (79); Terry Atao (81); Grace Wang (82); Lorraine Babauta (84); Aya Matsumoto (84); Kimiko Abe (87); and Pil Sun Kitami, who despite coming away with a net 74 failed to submit a required scorecard for handicap posting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the CNMI Women's Golf Association December Tournament pose for a group shot following Saturday's swing-off at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

For more information about the club's monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Spartans still lead dart league

Remington CRMO Spartans kept the top spot in the 2009 Inaugural Bud Light Lime Inter-Government Dart League, posting the highest winning percentage after 150 games.

The Lionel Sanchez-led Spartans carded a winning percentage of 62.67 after nailing a 94-56, six wins ahead of CUC Team, which holds an 88-82 mark for a winning percentage of 58.67 percent.

In third place behind by 10 wins are the DPS Enforcers, which have a 57.78 winning percentage built on their 78-57 record. Completing the Top 5 are DPW Trouble Shooters (85-65), which hold a 56.67 winning percentage, and Flair Customs Status Quo (83-67), which has earned a 55.33 winning percentage.

Six other teams are entered in the inaugural league and are at the bottom half of the teams. They are as follows: D'Pirates NMC Proa (80-85), DCCA Dart Vaders (80-85), WildBills PSS Assasins (75-90), Sande Mayors Bull Dozers (68-82), The Flair PSS Haas Mode (62-103), and Hopwood PSS All In (43-92).

In the individual standings, CUC Team's Joy Silva leads the field in the weighted average with his 59.36, followed by NMC's Leo Lindo (52.77), Sanchez (50.51), Norbert Pua (48.85), and Remington's Jayson John (48.09).

Rounding out the Top 10 are NMC's Jeff Barit (46.16), CUC's Leo Cabrera (46.06), DPQ's Jack Guerrero (46.00), Customs' Ray Lizama (44.98), and DCCA' Julian Camacho (44.92). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
DCCA Dart Vaders' Bill Limes in action during their game against Flair Customs Status Quo at Jonny's Bar.

BANMI starts referees, score table officials courses

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

On day like no other, 2 Cy Young winners swapped

On a day like no other in baseball history, two Cy Young Award winners in their primes changed teams.

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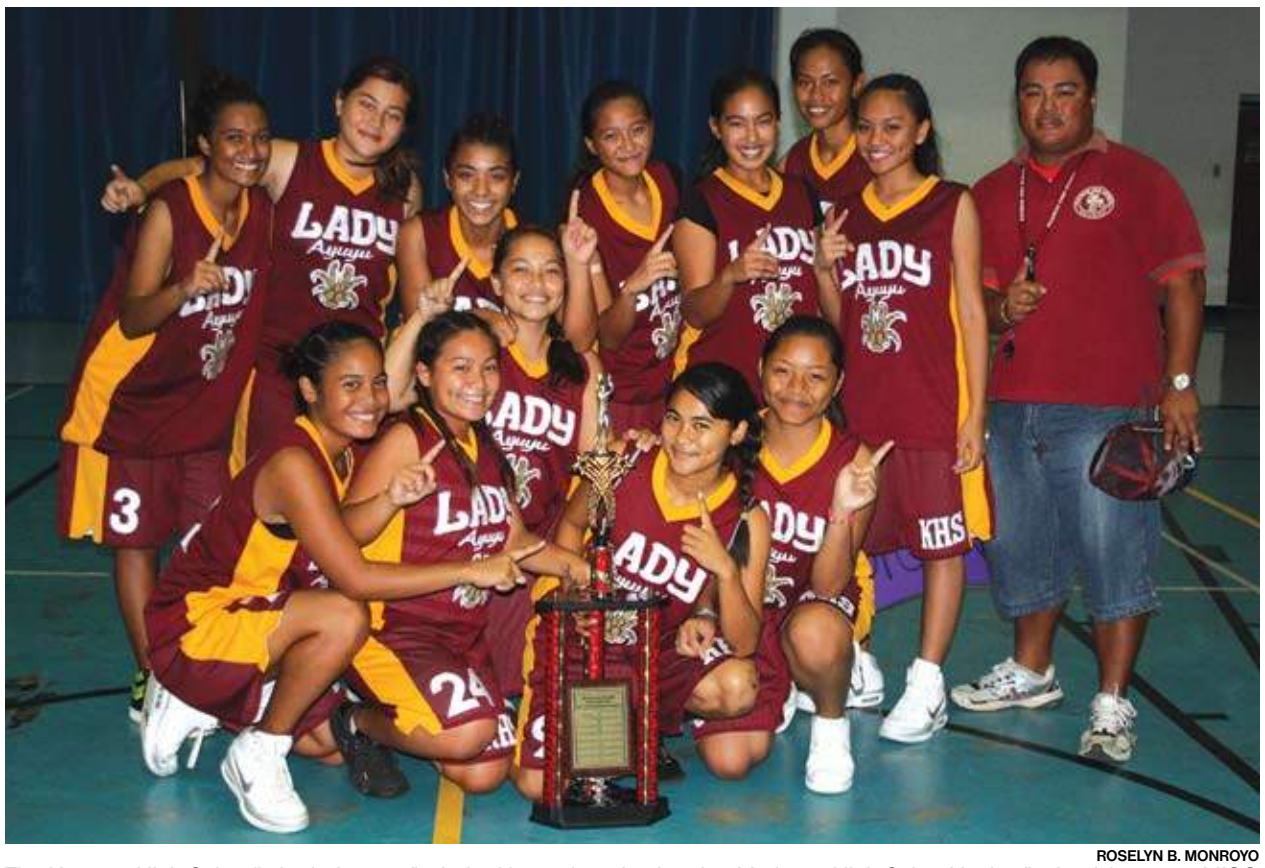
Kagman snares fourth straight title



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Kagman High School's Lady Ayuyus flash the No. 1 sign after beating Marianas High School in the finals of the 2009 MISO High School Basketball League on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School clinched its fourth girls varsity championship after stunning Marianas High School in the finals of the 2009 MISO High Schools Basketball League, 42-37, on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Two baskets from stalwart Dion Diaz and a free throw from Stacie Mizutani in the last 1:30 of the fourth period ensured the Lady Ayuyus a successful title defense and handed the Dolphins another bridesmaid finish.

The title match was last tied at the 37-all tally, as MHS and Kagman played a nip and tuck ballgame since the opening buzzer.

Three straight baskets from Jenequa Benavente kept MHS' title bid alive before Diaz hit two clutch baskets.

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Advance takes solo lead in UBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance X-Terminators wore new uniforms, but showed the same tough form that allowed them to thwart Prospects, 84-78, during their game in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League on Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The victory was Advance's third in as many games putting the X-Terminators in solo lead of the standings. Prospects absorbed its first loss in three matches as it failed to sustain its momentum in the second half after controlling the game in the first half.

Jun Estolas sparked Advance's comeback in the second half and drew support from his backcourt allies Pando Muleta and Freddie Pelisamen.

Estolas scored seven straight points in the third quarter, Pelisamen canned two triples, and Muleta added eight to help Advance grab the lead, 61-56, entering the final canto.

The X-Terminators, who were in their complete maroon uniforms, hung in there despite Prospects' repeated comeback bids. Prospects tied the game at 68-all, but free throw foes prevent the team from seizing the lead

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance's Freddie Pelisamen, center, drives against Prospects' Chris Paul, left, and Quincy Johnson during their game in the UBA caging at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Island Rebels crush Ramblers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Island Rebels posted the quickest win in the three featured games in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after thrashing Ramblers in five innings, 13-3, on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield

Toi Celis made four RBIs, two off his homer at the top of the first inning, while Mitch Aaron, B.J. Babauta, and Marvin Palacios added two RBIs each. Aaron and Palacios

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jerry Ayuyu scored three RBIs in Man Amigos' 25-15 win over Chura during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield

Christmas present

After three finger banana pancakes drowned in maple syrup, four strips of crispy Oscar Meyer bacon, and a tall glass of orange juice, it's time to push away from the dining table and hand out your early Christmas presents. And these are the best kind of gifts, the kind that cannot be stolen.

To all volunteers who make sports happen here, may the spirit of community service fill and nourish you, thus enriching us all. On a small island, one person indeed does make a large difference. Many sports here depend on a precious few.

To all athletes, may sportsmanship reign over all else. Games on Saipan are just that: games. Everyone wins some and loses some. May you have the courage to be gracious in defeat and humble in victory. A game lasts but for a short time but classiness lasts forever. A hero is something to be. Respect is an honor not ordered but freely given.

To all students, keep your dreams alive. Set lofty goals. Aspire to be more than you already are. A life of accomplishments is a life worthwhile. This year we had two members of the 2004 Saipan Little League All-Stars receive college scholarships to play baseball. Those were earned through hard work, persistence and dedication. Jonathan Salas and Justin Alexander set their goals years ago and now have attained them but they won't stop there. Now the effort is to succeed at a higher level.

Similarly with Frank "The Crank" Camacho who moved to the

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

States with a plan to become a professional mixed martial arts fighter. He remains committed to his original goal that was set

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